

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

'Salary hike negation bill unconstitutional'



By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

ERWIN ENCINARES

The House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee deliberates three bills of Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), right, at the House Speaker's conference room.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 20-39, which seeks to remove salary increases of elected officials as stated in Public Law 19-83, may possibly be deemed as unconstitutional, according to the House legal counsel in yesterday's

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According to members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, a bill seeking to negate the salary increases of elected leaders may be deemed unconstitutional.

ON STATE OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Torres continues discussion with CHCC board

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres confirmed that he has received the letter from a concerned doctor about the state of the CNMI's health care services and that he

would be in constant discussion with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of directors on the matter.

"Governor Torres welcomes the input by the medical staff at CHCC and thanks them for reaching out to him on the

matter," a statement from the administration late last night, read. "The governor continues to be in discussions with the CHCC Board of Trustees regarding issues critical to the hospital and its delivery of

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Competitive cyclist hit by bus sues Imperial Pacific, bus driver

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An experienced competitive cyclist is suing the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and its bus driver over the injuries he suffered when the bus' side mirror allegedly struck him while he was doing a cycle ride on Beach Road, Saipan last November.

Noe Valdisimo, 49, through counsel Stephen J. Nutting, has sued Imperial Pacific International and its bus driver, Roel Wabol, for negligence.

Valdisimo asked the Superior Court to hold the defendants liable to pay him damages and court costs for pain and suffering, emotional distress, mental anguish, medi-

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NATION

The Trump administration on Tuesday appealed a judge's ruling temporarily blocking its decision to end protections for hundreds of thousands of young immigrants.

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ENVIRONMENT

Seven of 10 northern spotted owls and 34 of 84 barred owls collected between 2009 and 2013 tested positive for anticoagulant rodenticides.

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LIFE & STYLE

A growing number of actors are distancing themselves from Woody Allen and his next film.

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Local

Siblings accuse Sen. Manglona of violating 2 court orders

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The two siblings of Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) have accused the senator of violating two orders issued by Superior Court Judge Pro Tempore David A. Wiseman in connection with their court battle over a piece of

land on Upper Capital Hill.

Priscilla M. Torres and Thomas A. Manglona, through counsel Samuel I. Mok, pointed out that Paul Manglona has still failed to join in his lawsuit indispensable parties even after being directed to do so by Wiseman.

Torres and Thomas Manglona are co-administrators of

the estate of their late mother, Bernadita A. Manglona.

Mok asked the court to dismiss Paul Manglona's lawsuit against them on the basis that the senator has failed to join necessary and indispensable parties to this case.

Last Nov. 16, Wiseman granted co-administrators Torres and Thomas Manglona's

motion to join indispensable parties. Wiseman also ordered that the estate be dropped as a named party to this case.

Mok said notwithstanding this clear directive, Paul Manglona has still failed to join co-administrators of the estate as a named party to this case.

Mok said Paul Manglona has taken no steps to drop the estate as a named party to this case, add the co-administrators of the estate or serve the co-administrators of the estate in their capacities as co-administrators.

Mok said all of the filings made by Paul Manglona after the court issued its Nov. 16 order still retain the original cap-

tion naming the estate of Bernadita A. Manglona as a party to this case with no reference to the co-administrators of the estate or the individual beneficiaries that were joined.

The lawyer said Paul Manglona's failure to join the co-administrators of the estate as a named party to this case, even though the court had already ruled the co-administrators of the estate were indispensable parties, warrants dismissal of this case.

Mok said Paul Manglona has unnecessarily wasted judicial resources as well as the resources of the estate by failing to comply with the court's Nov. 16 and 22 orders.

Sen. Manglona is suing defendants Torres, Thomas Manglona, and their mother's estate over the disputed 4,181-square-meter property on Upper Capital Hill.

The senator asked the court to declare him the fee simple owner of the property by virtue of a deed of gift on July 11, 1985, and that neither the defendants have any rights to do it.

In their answer to the lawsuit, Torres and Thomas Manglona, through counsel, asserted that their brother, Sen. Manglona, does not inherit entirely the disputed land as their mother's signature had been forged.

Marianas woman first to reach rank of colonel

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Esther Camacho Sablan of the Air National Guard had her silver eagle insignia, denoting the rank of colonel, pinned on her uniform at the Marianas congressional office by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP).

Col. Sablan is believed to be the first woman from the Northern Marianas to achieve the rank of colonel in any of the U.S. Armed Services. Promotion to the rank of colonel requires congressional approval, which was granted last Dec. 2. Also attending the family ceremony were Col. Sablan's husband, Pat Fearn, and her mother, Rita "Chai"

Sablan Dutton.

Delegate Sablan released a video of the event on YouTube today (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UK9kSTYo_-Q&t=4s).

"Colonel Sablan is an inspiration to us all," the delegate said, "especially to girls and younger women setting their goals in life."

"Look at her resume: Commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; earning both a bachelor's and master's degrees at MIT, simultaneously, in aeronautics and astronautics; then, multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan

as a combat search and rescue helicopter pilot and, along the way, collected two more master's degrees."

Col. Sablan is currently assigned to Joint Base Andrews outside Washington, serving as chief of the Force Planning and Strategic Basing Division.

"Anyone who sees Air Force Colonel Esther Sablan," delegate Sablan said, "knows there are no limits for people from the Marianas."

"I hope this is not the last time I pin the full bird on the shoulders of someone from our islands. And I hope someday to pin the star of general on Ms. Sablan's uniform." (PR)

Boy, 2, nearly drowns during family picnic

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A 2-year-old boy nearly drowned during a family picnic at San Antonio Beach on Tuesday afternoon.

Police said the father managed to revive the child just as patrol units and medics arrived at the scene.

Medics transported the boy to the Commonwealth Health Center, where he was admitted

for observation.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard said that DPS dispatch received a call regarding a near drowning incident at San Antonio Beach at 3:42pm.

Shepard said investigation showed that the boy, a Chamorro, arrived at the beach with his parents at 3pm for a picnic.

While preparing the grill, the mother noticed the boy

floating in the water, prompting her to yell for help.

The father pulled out the child out of the water and conducted a cardiopulmonary resuscitation after realizing he was not breathing.

Last Saturday, a 30-year-old Korean woman drowned, while her 34-year-old husband remains missing as of yesterday after the two went swimming in the waters off Forbidden Island.

Ferry to Pika Festival fills up quick

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is urging the public to act fast and reserve ferry seats for the 14th Annual Tinian Pika Festival.

The MVA has already secured a ferry for Saipan's residents to celebrate with Tinian locals at the upcoming Pika Festival but seats are filling up quick.

According to MVA community projects coordinator

Ray Villagomez, the ferry can only take up to 39 passengers per trip and already over 20 individuals have reserved spots on the ferry for the festival's opening night.

Villagomez said the ferry seats are limited and it is a "first-come, first-serve" basis for anyone interested.

He is urging interested Pika Festival attendees to take advantage of the fair ferry prices offered by the MVA.

The ferry will only take on passengers from early morn-


ing and take passengers back in the evening. Ferry rides will only be offered from Feb. 18 to 19. Roundtrip tickets are set at \$35 per person.

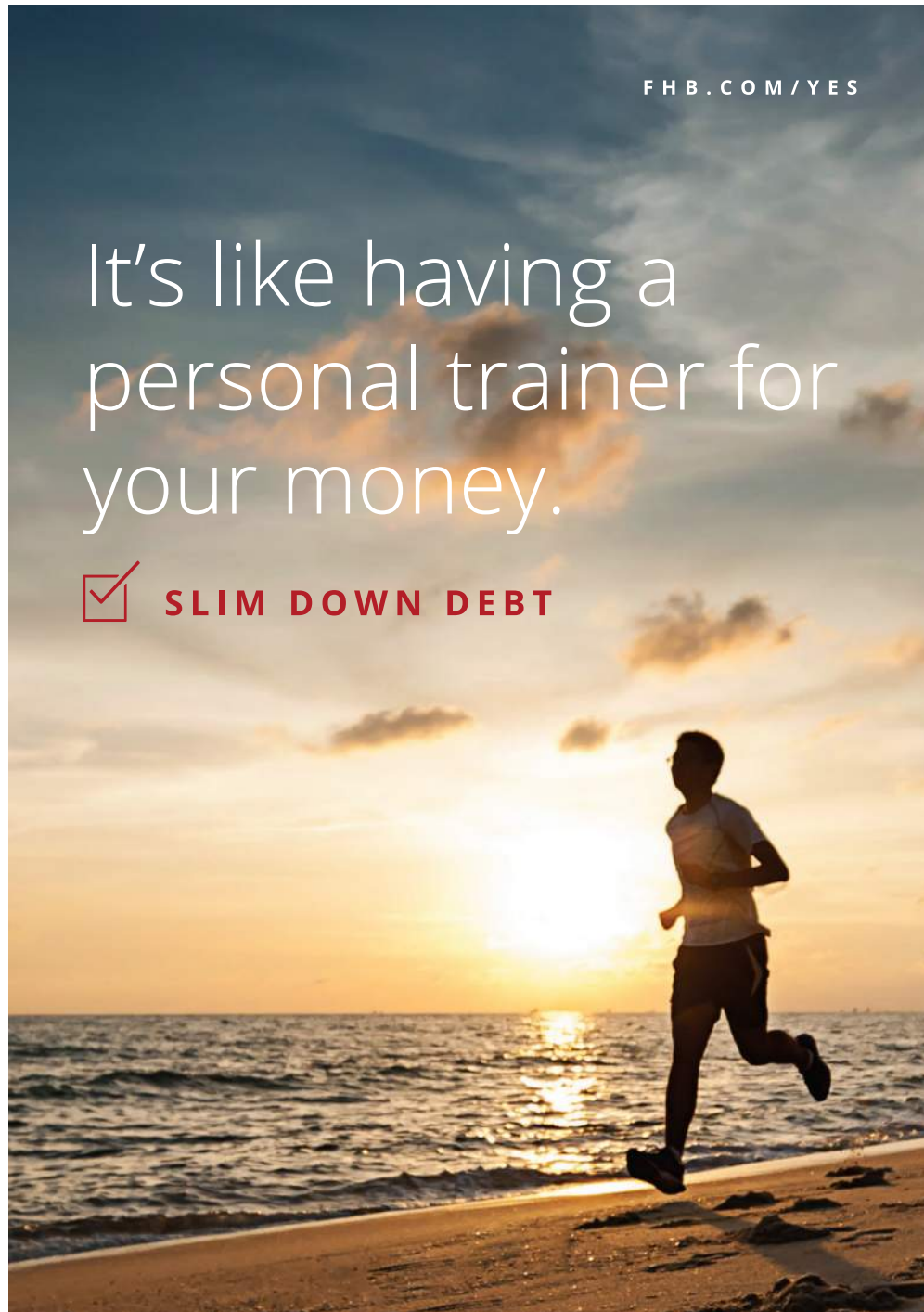
Villagomez said preparations are also being made to establish camping grounds for Saipan residents who want to attend the entire festival so individuals are welcome to bring camping equipment.

For individuals interested in reserving a spot on the ferry to Tinian, feel free to contact the MVA for reservations and additional information on the festival.

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Intoxicated man allegedly caused disturbance at hotel, struck by car

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

An alleged intoxicated 22-year-old man who caused a disturbance inside a hotel in Garapan was injured when he crossed an undesignated crosswalk along Beach Road and was struck by a car last Tuesday night.

The pedestrian, a Chuuke-se, was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room where he was admitted for further observation.

The driver, a 61-year-old male, will not face charges as the pedestrian was found at fault, according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard yesterday.

Shepard said DPS dispatched highway patrol to a reported auto-pedestrian accident in front of Gold Beach Hotel at 9:58pm.

Shepard said upon arrival at the scene, officers observed the unconscious pedestrian on the road.

Shepard said investigation revealed that the pedestrian, who was intoxicated, caused a disturbance inside Gold Beach Hotel then walked out onto the highway.

The pedestrian crossed in an undesignated crosswalk and a 2007 Mazda sedan driven by the 61-year-old man struck him.

The DPS spokesperson said the driver was not intoxicated or speeding at the time.

The car had full-face dark tint on the front windshield.

Shepard said the tint, dark clothing of the pedestrian, and the limited street lighting were contributing factors to the accident.

However, she said, investigators determined that the

pedestrian was at fault for the accident.

Last Dec. 18 at early morning, a 48-year-old woman

died after being hit by a van when she reportedly entered in an undesignated crosswalk along Chalan Monsignor

Guerrero in Dandan.

Last Nov. 16 at night, a 34-year-old woman, who lied on the ground near

Mom's Round Two Bar along Garapan Street due to drunkenness, was killed after a vehicle ran over her.

The driver of a car stopped the car and called the police. Investigators found the woman at fault.

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PHI continues to coordinate with CHCC

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

PHI Pharmacy continues to coordinate with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to provide proper patient care for the community.

In a statement from Joshua Wise, general manager of PHI Pharmacy, the pharmacy has been renewed for at least a year with options to renew up to a total of five years, given that CHCC and PHI have reached an agreement on the lease after every year.

With the renewed lease, PHI Pharmacy would be staying at the Commonwealth Health Center to further serve the patients in need of pharmaceuticals.

"There are two outpatient pharmacies in CHC now, and the thing we are trying to avoid the most is confusion," said Wise in an interview.

Wise explained that because there are now two pharmacies at CHC, patients could easily mistake one pharmacy for the other and possibly not get the prescription medicine they need.

"...Sometimes the prescription medicine is not there, so there is this confusion with patients on which pharmacy to go to," Wise said.

CNMI to host first 'Women's March' on Jan. 21

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Sisters who are community members of the Commonwealth have decided to bring the first "Women's March" to the CNMI.

The Women's March is a walk to promote equality

According to Wise, today would be the care transition meeting, where PHI and CHCC officials meet to discuss issues pertaining to the transition of care for patients.

"That is kind of where

those particular topics come up, so I would be discussing that with them [today]," he said, referring to the possible confusion of having two outpatient pharmacies.

"[The meeting is for] making sure [patients] are taken

care of when they are discharged and making sure patients aren't confused where to get their medicine is something we can help to clarify," Wise added. "We will work with CHCC on a system to combat confusion."

media and through various news outlets.

The walk has been done in different places of the United States and the sisters were inspired to bring the walk to Saipan's community for the number of women who would like to support the cause but could not physically be in any of the walks.

The walk signifies the unity of women all over the island and around the world.

Nevitt said that the walk provides an opportunity for individuals to walk and discuss the current issues that women face today, meet other individuals, and just have a great time.

Interested participants are encouraged to wear black and make signs in support of female equality.

The mission of the Women's March is to harness the political power of diverse women and

their communities to create transformative social change.

The Women's March is a women-led movement providing intersectional education on a diverse range of issues and creating entry points for activists and organizers to engage in their local communities through trainings, outreach programs, and events.

The Women's March is committed to dismantling systems of oppression through nonviolent resistance and building inclusive structures guided by self-determination, dignity, and respect.

The purpose for the march is also to instill in the community that women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights.

Participants are also encouraged to bring their own water and towels for they will not be provided during the walk.

Saipan writers workshop on Jan 27, 2018

Are you an aspiring author? Do you have a book idea? Have you always wanted to write and publish "The Great Marianas novel" or memoir, a non-fiction "how to" manual, or book of poetry or photographs? Or do you need to establish yourself as an expert in your field with a book to your credit? Looking for tips on how to overcome writer's block? Well you can, and it's easier than you think!

Local resident, Walt F.J. Goodridge, is author of over 24 books in a variety of genres. His books have been used as texts for university courses, as guides by other coaches, and his ideas have been quoted in

books by "Guerrilla Marketing" guru Jay Conrad Levinson, music industry pioneer Chuck D, and other business authors worldwide. He's been featured in *Time Magazine*, *Entrepreneur*, *Wall St. Journal*, and other publications.

Goodridge has written several books about Saipan including *Jamaican on Saipan*, *Chicken Feathers & Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan*, *Saipan Living*, *Doing Business on Saipan*, *Saipan Now: a photo adventure*, *There's Something About Saipan*, and *From Bugle Boy to Battle Ship: a Battle of Saipan Veteran's Memoir*. He has also

coached, edited, or "ghost-written" other books including *When the Walls Came Down* by Ken Greene (a 9/11 memoir), *Rucksack to Briefcase* by Chief Raymond (a military to civilian-side transition guide), and, with local CHCC nurse Riza Ramos, he's collaborated on *The Boy Who Dreamed to Be With His Parents on Saipan*, *GermStopper Boy and Drinking Seawater* (a Soude-lor memoir), and guided them from idea to Amazon sales!

During this lively, interactive three-hour workshop, Goodridge will share tips and step-by-step instructions on how to start a book project, overcome "writer's block,"

find the best and worst times to write, edit your book, how to tell when it's ready, and how to go from idea to sales in 24 hours or less!

The workshop will be held on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018, from 12pm to 3pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's video teleconference room. Admission is \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door. Twenty percent of admission proceeds will be donated directly to the library on the day of the event.

Seating is limited. To register, visit the front desk of the library. For more information, learn more about Walt, and to see some success stories from past workshops, visit www.saipanwriters.com. (PR)

TORRES

From Page 1

quality health care services for our islands' patients, residents, and visitors."

Torres through the statement recognized the need of the hospital for more financial backing and has "pledged his support to the CEO and the board that larger legislative appropriation bills will be enacted to fulfill that commitment."

According to the statement, Torres is continuing

discussions with the board regarding CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña's financial priorities.

"...[Torres] has expressed his disappointment in the CEO's lack of financial priorities both recently and throughout the course of the last year, and he has expressed this with the board accordingly. Governor Torres will continue to have discussions with the board regarding this matter moving forward in a responsible manner."

In a previous press release from the Torres administra-

tion, the governor expressed his disappointment with Muña for prioritizing funding of the renovation of an outpatient pharmacy over securing "vital equipment to better serve our patients and community".

"...That should have been taken care of first, rather than to prioritize the renovation of an outpatient pharmacy when an existing pharmacy is still there within the hospital to provide outpatient services," Torres said in a statement.

Last Tuesday, CHCC board chair Lauri Ogumoro declined to comment after *Saipan*

Tribune reached out to her through phone.

According to Ogumoro, the board is "working with Torres" on determining plans for the hospital. Asking for further details, she declined to comment.

"I'd rather not comment because the board is working through these issues," she said.

In an interview with Muña, she told *Saipan Tribune* that she was not personally asked by the board or Torres to step down from her position. She added she was not willing to

SALARY

From Page 1

committee meeting.

According to House legal counsel John Cool, who cited Article 2, Sec. 10 and Article 3, Sec. 5 of the CNMI Constitution, the salaries of elected members of the Legislative branch and the Executive branch may not be changed within four years.

The counsel added that according to both provisions of the CNMI Constitution, the salary change must also be accompanied by a recommendation from the advisory commission suggesting for a salary change, which H.B.

20-39 lacked.

For the mayoral salaries, revision was legal.

Recognizing that a certified question petition has been filed to the Supreme Court during the third quarter of 2017, the committee ultimately decided to defer action on the bill until a ruling on the constitutionality of the salary increases of P.L. 19-83.

"...The intent of the bill is to revert back the salary that was already enacted into law during the 19th Legislature, which the constitution does not allow because you have to wait another four years before you could make another salary adjustment," said JGO Committee chair Rep. Ivan

A. Blanco (R-Saipan), adding that his committee would wait for the ruling of the Supreme Court on the certified question.

Propst, on the other hand, believes that H.B. 20-39 was not a change in salary, but was simply "reverting back" the changes in their salaries. He also pointed out that the advisory commission back then failed to recommend a salary increase within the given timeframe of 60 days and should therefore be deemed as void.

"We don't have to wait for the Attorney General to operate. It is within our capacity and our rights to change and correct the wrongdoing that has been done," he said, fur-

ther pointing out that there was a pecuniary interest during the deliberations of P.L. 19-83 because reelected officials voted on the bill after the elections of 2016.

According to P.L. 19-83, the governor and lieutenant governor would be compensated with a salary of \$120,000 and \$100,000 per annum, respectively. The fiscal year 2018 budget bill indicates an annual increase of \$30,700 for both House and Senate members, while mayors of each senatorial district get an annual increase of \$31,800, effectively bumping legislators' budgets to \$70,000 per annum and \$75,000 per annum for mayors.

ERRATUM

From Page 1

In the story published last Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018, titled "Killili: Our working group is close," it erroneously reported that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has yet to be included in Sen. Lisa Murkowski's group that is working on the CW-1 extension. This is incorrect, according to the Torres administration. Our apologies.

cal care and expenses. He demanded a jury trial.

Asked for comments yesterday, Imperial Pacific International said the company is concerned about the safety of others when its vehicles operate upon the road and streets.

Imperial Pacific said the company expects its employees to obey the traffic laws of the CNMI and properly operate its vehicles in a safe manner for the protection of employees, passengers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other motorists.

"IPI is aware of the lawsuit and has referred the matter to its attorneys and insurer. Because the matter is now under litigation, IPI has to defer making further comment," IPI said in its press statement.

According to Nutting in the complaint, on Nov. 18, 2017, Valdisimo began his normal cycle ride at 6am and started in the south and began heading north on Beach Road.

Nutting said Valdisimo, a competitive cyclist, was wearing a protective cycle-specific helmet on his head.

the outermost right lane as Beach Road does not contain a designated path for bicycles.

The lawyer said the cyclist had operational safety lights on both the front and the rear of his bike.

On that same morning, Wabol was allegedly on duty as a bus driver for Imperial Pacific and was driving the company's bus on the highway.

Between 6am and 6:04am, the bus' side mirror allegedly struck Valdisimo on Beach Road in front of Joeten Motors Co.

Nutting said Valdisimo was struck with a tremendous force, throwing him from his bicycle and causing injuries and damages.

As a result of the collision, Nutting said, plaintiff suffered significant physical injuries, such as road rash abrasions on the chest, lower back, right knee, and injuries to the right shoulder, spine, and ribs.

The lawyer said the cyclist suffered damage to personal property such as a broken cell phone, a broken cycle specific helmet, and a broken bicycle.

Nutting said Wabol breached his duty to exercise due care when he was driving the bus to overtake and pass Valdisimo's bicycle that was heading in the same direction.

DPW commended for effective funding management

The CNMI Department of Public Works has been commended once again by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration after the submission of their quarterly obligations report.

According to Highway Administrator Lorraine Seman, this is the second time the

FHWA has commended DPW for its execution and proper management for overall project funding.

"DPW received a 0.1 percentage rating for inactive obligations which is well below the expected national goal level of 2 percent. In the region, we've surpassed Guam,

which is at 14.4 percent, and American Samoa at 22.8 percent, respectively. The first time we received recognition was in mid-August of last year in which we also achieved 0.1 percent. We are very pleased we are maintaining this momentum," Seman said.

Secretary of Public Works

James A. Ada added that the territorial funding from FHWA goes toward transportation improvement projects island-wide.

"Our divisions have been in consistent collaboration to get these projects completed to improve the safety of our highways and to meet federal standards. We hope to continue to fulfill our commitment and stewardship between FWHA and meet our infrastructural needs on all three islands. I commend the Technical Services Division Highway Branch personnel for all

their hard work and commitment," Ada said.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres expressed that meeting the federal standards for projects strengthen infrastructure opportunities moving forward.

"I am very pleased that DPW is on the road again. Federal highway funding has been instrumental in improving our islands' infrastructure, and I thank DPW for maintaining and even surpassing their authorized obligations," Torres said.

The Federal Highway Administration provides stewardship over the construction,

maintenance, and preservation of the Nation's highways, bridges and tunnels. FHWA also conducts research and provides technical assistance to state and local agencies in an effort to improve safety, mobility, and livability, and to encourage innovation. At the same time, federal highway funds may be reduced, suspended, diverted or approval of new federal funds may be withheld should a state or territory continue to fail to meet the 2 percent national inactivity requirement within its 12 months authorized obligation. (PR)

Expeditionary Marines to train in Guam

DEDEDO, Guam—Since Jan. 11, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) has been conducting its annual Realistic Urban Training Exercise also known as RUTEX in preparation of the unit's deployment in the Asia-Pacific late this year.

The purpose of RUTEX is to train Marines to coordinate with local law enforcement agencies and local leaders to operate in an urban environment and hone their proficiency to respond to a threat to a community or its infrastructure.

Most of the exercise this year has occurred on military installations, but a very important portion of the exercise is scheduled to be conducted in Hagatna, Guam at the Sewage Treatment Plant this Saturday night.

Village residents could see Marines periodically throughout this portion of the exercise, but those Marines will be in plain clothes until the initiation of the raid late Friday night—early Saturday morning.

There will be no live-fire off of military installations for the exercise this year.

Members of Guam SWAT and Marines from the 31st MEU, however, will train together on Naval Computer Telecommunications Site in Dededo to focus on best marksmanship techniques with small arms pistol and rifle.

Since August of last year, planners for the exercise have

coordinated through the appropriate agencies and officials to ensure safety and minimize the impact on the community. Some of these agencies and personnel include village mayors, the Office of the Governor, Guam Fire Department, Guam Police Department, the Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense as well as the U.S. Coast Guard.

"Working in unfamiliar environments is critical to the success of our Marines," said Col. Tye R. Wallace, commander of the 31st MEU. "As the nation's only permanently-deployed Marine Expeditionary Unit, we must be able to react with little or no notice to threats in urban environments as a regional crisis response force."

"We are always ready to support Marine Corps Activity Guam and the Expeditionary Operations Training Group," stated Charles Esteves, Office of Civil Defense Administrator. "Public safety during the conduct of any exercises is a priority. We ensure risk management is conducted at every stage of the planning process. Risks will be mitigated by exercise stakeholders and partnering agencies within the Government of Guam. There is no doubt that this year's exercise will be a success."

For question from media representatives, please contact

Marine Corps Activity Guam Public Affairs Officer, Maj. Timothy Patrick, at Timothy.Patrick@fe.navy.mil or at 671-689-5860. (PR)

Saipan Community School Honor Roll List

Saipan Community School is pleased to announce the honor roll students for the 2nd Quarter of the 2017-18 school year. Students are recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being identified with honor status. To qualify for the SCS Principal's List, a student must achieve a 4.0 GPA. To qualify for the A Honor Roll, a student must attain a 3.50 GPA with no grades below a "B." To qualify for the B Honor Roll, a student must attain a 3.00 GPA with no grades below a "C."

Principals list-4.00

- Angel Ren - 7th grade

"A" Honor Roll 3.50 to 3.99 - (No grades below B)

- Isaiah Aleksenko - 6th grade
- Paul William Camacho II - 6th grade
- Jung Hyun (Olivia) Hwang - 6th grade
- Hyeyoon (Helen) Kim - 6th grade
- Hui Yun (Joshua) Park - 6th grade

- Camille Sablan - 6th grade
- Tiana Torres - 6th grade
- One An - 7th grade
- Seo Young Baek 7th grade
- Miles Borja - 7th grade
- Tiana Cabrera - 7th grade
- Anika Camacho - 7th grade
- Katie Choi - 7th grade
- Amena Mahmud - 7th grade
- Sieun Michelle Ryu - 7th grade
- Jesus Sablan - 7th grade
- Sedrei Camacho - 8th grade
- Jun Beom (Chris) Kim - 8th grade
- Seung Won Lee - 8th grade
- Shu Qi Wu - 8th grade
- Xin Yue (Moon) Zeng - 8th grade
- Tina Zhen - 8th grade
- Haonan Zhou - 8th grade

"B" Honor Roll 3.00 to 3.49 - (No grades below a C)

- Martin Hui Tai Park - 6th grade
- Grace Ju - 7th grade
- Dongyeon (Daniel) - 7th grade
- Grace Kim - 7th grade
- Jung Hyoun (Rina) Park - 7th grade
- Hyun Ah Cloie Seo - 7th grade
- Jia Lin Zhen - 7th grade
- Lisa Zhou - 7th grade
- Paul Ham - 8th grade
- Jimin Kwon - 8th grade
- Sean Sung Mook Lee - 8th grade (PR)

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USDA official recommends 1-year time frame for rhino beetle eradication

Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente met with Dallas Berringer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Guam to discuss the ongoing coconut rhino beetle eradication process on Rota.

Benavente noted that more netting traps will be deployed along with salt water spraying for sanitation.

"One adult CRB was caught entering a trap last week and while we've identified short-term resources over the last couple months, we continue to procure supplies and work with local and federal officials regarding our eradication needs," Benavente said.

Berringer added that it would be best to allow one year to determine if the eradication process is complete.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente, left, meets with Dallas Berringer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Guam.

"We're continuing to map out the infestation in the area, and destroying the breeding sites and affected coconut trees. Last month, our team discussed the quarantine of the Tweeksberry area, and that bright lighting is needed during the evening hours to keep hidden CRBs from flying outside the quarantine. Preventing further spreading has been successful, and we learned that the farthest CRBs have been detected is in an adjacent property to Tweeksberry," Benavente said, noting that a daily collections report for CRBs is ongoing, along with land clearing procedures.

Torres, congressional working group close on CW bill

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres confirms that he and other members of the congressional working group led by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) are close to legislation that extends the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program and provides for increased resources on U.S. workforce development.

The governor has indicat-

ed that he has been working closely over the last several weeks as a member of the group on provisions that he introduced with the Northern Marianas Business Alliance.

"We applaud Senator Murkowski for agreeing to take the lead in helping the CNMI and have welcomed with open arms the opportunity to work with her office

and the other congressional office in crafting legislation that provides long-term benefits to the CNMI. We are very pleased that my colleagues in our working group are adding provisions I personally recommended with the NMBAC. As we continue to progress in our discussions, I will keep everyone informed as we move forward," Torres said. (PR)

As a precaution, he noted that a thorough survey of the Wedding Cake Mountain needs to be conducted and that USDA-APHIS is willing to use their drone to assist. At the same time, USDA will need to get clearance from the Federal Aviation Administration to operate.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres underscored the urgency of the eradication process and continues to encourage the collaboration between federal and local officials.

"The coconut rhino beetle is one of many invasive species that our team is working diligently to combat. This continues to be a critical priority, and the ongoing collaboration is crucial to eradication. I thank Secretary Benavente, our

CNMI Invasive Species Coordinator Ray Roberto, our team in Rota, and USDA-APHIS for their continued collaboration," Torres said.

Torres added that CNMI Invasive Species coordinator Ray Roberto is closely working with Rota staff to monitor the operation and will be assembling a team from Rota, Saipan, Tinian, and the Northern Islands for further training at the eradication program in Guam to increase bio-security.

Solar lamps installed against rhino beetles

Benavente also reported that ongoing coconut rhino beetle containment efforts include using eight solar powered lamps to keep nocturnal CRBs at bay.

Strategic CRB Action Plan for 2017 to 2022

Benavente also shared that a Strategic Action Plan for 2017 to 2022 has been put into place toward coconut rhino beetle prevention, detection, and eradication.

Recently reviewed by the Agriculture Advisory Council, Benavente stated that the plan includes standard operating procedures moving forward.

Building and maintaining capacity including rapid response, risk analysis and public engagement, he says, is critical to controlling the impact.

"When coconut rhino beetles were discovered in October of last year, our efforts were expedited as we know the current impact of CRB's in Guam and neighboring regions. Additionally, we've found that the beetle is also known to feed on economically important commercial crops such as bananas, sugarcane, papayas, sisal, pineapples, and date palms. Even though CRBs have a short lifespan, in our climate, the beetle can reproduce throughout the year, making these consistent efforts all the more important," he said.

Torres reiterated that in combating CR's and invasive species overall, the strategic action plan aims to mitigate threats to all natural resources.

"I commend DLNR's steadfast action and progress in combating invasive species and putting forth a plan of action to prioritize our resources and efforts. I am assured that we will continue to push plans for mitigation now and in the months ahead, Torres said.

For more information call CNMI Forestry at 256-3321 or Department of Lands and Natural Resources at 322-9834. (PR)



2018 CCA Board of Directors & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to its annual general membership meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 5:30 PM at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the president's 2017 annual report as well as the treasurer's financial report. Immediately after the presentations, election of two (2) board members will commence. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via email and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or more information contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-OGM-043**

**SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 05, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"ROTA SLAUGHTERHOUSE FEASIBILITY STUDY
FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DFEMS-031**

**SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2018 TIME: 10:30 A.M.
"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY FOR TWO FIREFIGHTING PUMPER TRUCKS
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
COMMISSIONER, DFEMS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Childcare providers thank DCCA secretary, governor

Officers and members of CNMI Childcare Provider Association met with Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter last Dec. 21 to express their appreciation for working so hard for the \$500,000 childcare fund approved by the governor.

The additional funding for childcare was confirmed by the governor and lawmakers in a press release last Dec. 5. CCPA expresses their gratitude to the lawmakers and the governor.

The appropriation is the first local government's share in the funding provided to eligible families for childcare. Providers appreciate this additional fund as it also benefits them as it enables daycare centers to serve more children. Childcare is federally funded administered by Child Care Development Fund under DCCA. The childcare fund provides financial assistance to parents attending



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter poses with the officers and members of the CNMI Childcare Providers Association who met with secretary to thank him and government for the local share in childcare fund. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

school full-time, parents employed full-time, working single parents, and children with special needs.

On the part of childcare providers, delivering high quality care services is among the federal requirements. CCDF provides training to

daycare and childcare workers and also daycare center directors on health and safety, leadership in early childhood, developmental appropriate practice, and many more. A childcare employee needs to complete 30 hours of annual trainings, must be CPR

certified, food handler certified, and has secured police and SORNA (Sex Offender) clearance certificates.

This first month of 2018, DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter and CCDF administrator Maribel Loste need to submit to Gov. Ralph Torres'

administration information on the utilization of the additional childcare fund particularly on how it would effectively enable eligible families to be at work or attend school full-time. Licensed childcare providers could be subject to additional requirements. The

CNMI Association of Child Care Providers is committed to work closely with CCDF in helping families needing assistance in caring for their children.

With the current situation of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, providers wish and hope that they could effectively attract and hire U.S. and local workers by offering competitive salary rates and benefits like those being paid by the Public School System. The CNMI Association of Childcare Providers would like to suggest to CCDF that portion of the local fund for childcare, first be treated as a regular part of the government annual budget, and second, subsidized compensation to attract local individuals to work as childcare providers in the private centers.

Again, the providers, families and children thank the government for this fund and wish this be a yearly budget for the care of our children. (PR)

Pamintuan to represent GMS at regional Spelling Bee

Christian Ted Pamintuan, a seventh grader, emerged as the 2018 School Scripps Spelling Bee Champion of Green Meadow School last Jan. 12, 2017. He will represent the school for the third time in the Regional Scripps Spelling Bee in Guam on March 3, 2018. Pamintuan studied and memorized over 2,000 words from the official 2018 Scripps

Spelling Bee to be able to bag this honor.

"In order to become a spelling champ, one must have endurance, diligence, determination, love for reading, discipline, and confidence," said Pamintuan.

Chealzka Navarro, a fifth grader, was the school's runner-up and will also be traveling to Guam for the regional

competition as an alternate. She competed head-to-head with Pamintuan during the championship and lasted until 12th round with him.

The school administration, faculty, staff, and parents would like to congratulate both students and looking forward to bring home what Pamintuan always wanted—a regional champion. (PR)



From left, Rosalie Habijan, (5th grade adviser and elementary department assistant principal), Lorelisa Espiritu (School Spelling Bee coordinator/coach), Ted Pamintuan (Spelling Bee champion), Chealzka Navarro (Spelling Bee runner-up), Bona Angeles (Daycare and Preschool assistant principal), and Milagros Songcuan (Green Meadow School principal) pose for a group photo. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public-School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its ICC meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2018, 9:00 am to 11:00 am, at the C*DAC Office, Garapan. This meeting is open to the public; interested individuals are welcome to attend.


Agenda will be distributed out at the meeting.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 322-4545. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/
Margaret Aldan
Chairwoman

/s/
Robin L. Palacios
Interim Coordinator, Early Intervention Program

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on Friday, January 26, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Election of Officers
 - e. Adoption of Board Minutes
September 24, 2017 and October 10, 2017
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 - a. Divisional Updates
 - b. LIHTC Monitoring Review Protocol
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Personnel Matters
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Isa Villas Request to Combine Allocation Awards
 - b. Operation of the Koblerville Gym RFP
 - c. Tinian Foreclosed Property Offer
- VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. OTHER MATTERS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT
(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **AUBRY M. HOCOG**
Acting Chairwoman of the Board



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-18-2009

For: Local Publication and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date: Time:	February 23, 2018 3:00 p.m.
Submit sealed proposals to:	Marianas Visitors Authority Procurement Office San Jose Professional Building Beach Rd., San Jose P.O. Box 500861 Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **January 16, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by February 23, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a Notice of Intent by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **February 23, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on February 09, 2018**.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh Chairperson, Board of Directors	/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion Managing Director
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Kagman cluster of schools PTSA meeting today**

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a PTSA meeting today, Jan. 18, 5:30pm at the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting.

Please call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. Your support and understanding is appreciated. (PR)

PH passport releasing

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, will be releasing the passport of those who renewed their passports last Nov. 14, 15, and 16, 2017. You can pick up your passports at Finasisu Terraces Apartment Bldg. D, 2nd Floor, on top of the Mini-Mart Store, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm (12pm-1pm break time).

Please bring your old passport and receipt. For any inquiry or details, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. (PR)

Learn how to set up an LLC or partnership

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be

offering a free business seminar on how to set up an LLC or partnership. The seminar will

be held at the Commonwealth Development Authority boardroom on Tuesday, Jan. 30, from

8:30am to 9:30am. It will be presented by lawyer Michael Dotts. This seminar is support-

ed by the CNMI Department of Commerce and CDA. To register, contact the SBDC office

at (670) 664-3018 or go online at <http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events>. (PR)

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Notice of Public Hearing

Saipan Garden Resort
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-020

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Saipan Garden Resort Project in Tanapag, Saipan.

American Sinopan LLC. Is proposing to construct and operate ten (10) six-story hotel buildings with 1,184 rooms, two (2) six-story service apartments with 180 units, two (2) six-story staff housing with 170 units, five (5) single-story restaurants, three (3) swimming pools, one (1) administrative building, one (1) main hotel lobby, and one (1) generator room on 24.7 acres in Tanapag. In compliance with Section 15-10-020, ASLLC is required to inform adjacent property owners regarding the project hearing.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. at Tanapag Middle School.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan or mailed to the DCRM, Caller Box 10007 or by fax to 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Saipan Garden Resort Project.

/s/ Roger Cheang, ASLLC Asst. GM



Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Half a billion plastic straws are used and discarded every day. What an unacceptable waste

Every day Americans use—and almost immediately discard—up to half a billion plastic beverage straws. At least, that's the figure widely used by environmental activists to explain why people should embrace going straw-less.

It's not clear where that number came from, but it seems credible considering how many takeout sodas, frappuccinos, smoothies, cold-press juices, boba teas and other beverages Americans buy every day, most of which are accompanied by a complimentary plastic straw. Lately, even some sit-down restaurants have taken to serving the obligatory glass of water with a straw already in place, as if humans haven't been expertly consuming liquid from containers using only their lips for millennia.

The realization that disposable plastic waste is piling up in landfills and leaching into the environment has fueled a nascent straws-on-request movement around the country, and it's gaining traction in California. Having won the battle to curb the use of disposable plastic bags statewide, environmentalists are now pushing California cities to require restaurants and other food services to keep their plastic straws to themselves unless a customer asks for one. Davis and San Luis Obispo passed straw restrictions last year. Officials in the San Diego County beach town of Encinitas and in Berkeley are currently considering taking straw-reduction action as well. Other coastal cities will likely follow their lead.

Oh great, you may be thinking, another convenience that California wants to ban like plastic grocery bags and polystyrene takeout containers. And why pick on straws, which are so puny? Surely they aren't as much of a problem as plastic bottles.

Actually, they are. More than three-quarters of the plastic water bottles used by Californians are recycled, thanks to a state law that puts a bounty on each container. There's no similar payoff for turning over plastic straws, which are typically dumped in the trash along with the cup and lid they came with.

These diminutive sticks of hollow plastic that we use for a few minutes then toss, maybe in a trash can and maybe in the street, are adding substantially to the tons of plastic waste discharged into the ocean and lakes every year. Plastic straws are commonly found during beach clean-ups, which is a good indicator of their presence in the ocean. Why is that bad? If you can stomach it, check out this video of marine biologists removing a plastic straw lodged deeply in the nose of an endangered sea turtle. Warning: it contains profanity. (Not from the turtle.) It's horrifying to know that one errant straw can do such damage when you can enjoy that frosty cola just as easily without it. Even if a stray straw doesn't find its way

See HALF on Next Page



Trump doesn't understand what makes America truly great

"I am not a racist," Donald Trump found it necessary to reassure Americans. It was a revealing echo of when Richard Nixon told us, "I'm not a crook." Trump's derogatory remarks about Haiti, El Salvador and African countries generally were extremely vulgar. Presidents are human; many have used vulgar phrases, although seldom so crudely. What's striking about Trump's insult is that it reveals how small and stunted his view of the world and of this country is. He simply doesn't understand what makes America great.

Trump sees the world through a keyhole, from behind a locked door embedded in a wall. Yet America's greatness has come from maintaining an open door — one that has allowed people and ideas to pass both in and out. America's values — liberty, equal justice under law, opportunity, freedom of speech and religion — were and are beacons to the world. Americans are forged from those values, not from one bloodline or one race or religion. Our values have attracted the energy and the hopes of peoples across the world. And the American example opened doors to Americans across the world. Where Trump sees threats, Americans historically have seen opportunities.

This country was not born in perfection. Slavery was its greatest scar. Our democracy initially was limited to white male landowners. It took a Civil War, our bloodiest war, to eliminate slavery. Waves of immigrants were often greeted harshly, segregated and scorned. It took a civil rights movement to end legal apartheid in this country.

What makes America great is that our most basic rights, enshrined in the Constitution, laid the basis for and gave legitimacy to the social movements that have been necessary to make America better. Freedom of religion protected us from religious wars. Freedom of speech and assembly and of the press helped keep government and business accountable, while giving citizens the possibility of driving fundamental reforms.

In his scorn for press freedom, his cancerous appeal to racial differences, Trump seems oblivious to this foundation of American greatness.

America was not always a good neighbor. Our expansion across the continent exacted a harsh and savage toll on Native Americans. We traduced our own values in supporting dictators and overthrowing democracies even in our own hemisphere. We were not a colonial power, but we continued a colonial war in Vietnam at great cost. For years, we saw the terrorist apartheid regime of South Africa as an ally and branded Nelson Mandela a terrorist.

What makes America great is that Americans objected to these

By **JESSE JACKSON**

Tribune News Service

You can write to the Rev. Jesse Jackson in care of this newspaper or by email at jjackson@rainbowpush.org. Follow him on Twitter @RevJJackson.



violations of our basic values. An antiwar movement helped end the war in Vietnam. A movement in support of free South Africa helped end apartheid in that country. We may violate our values, but they retain their force. Trump, however, seems too often oblivious to the values that he is trampling.

America is a big country with an expansive vision, a country of many races, creeds and nationalities, a land of opportunity. We aspire to equal rights for all, yet we witness a growing and extreme inequality that threatens to undermine our democracy. Trump and his allies, as they lavish tax breaks on the already rich and empower multinationals to trample protections of consumers, workers and the environment, seem oblivious to how corrosive that is to the Republic.

Some worry about Trump becoming a dictator, but he seems less dictatorial than scared, less imperious than impulsive, less arrogant than insecure. His vision is too cribbed to make America bigger or better or more generous.

Leaders can choose. They can rise by appealing to our better angels, by offering hope or gain by rousing our demons, by peddling fear. This country and the world are now experiencing a political whiplash. We elected Barack Obama, a graceful president who sought to bring us together, arguing that there were not blue states or red states, but a United States of America. And then, in reaction, Donald Trump was elected, railing against immigrants (even as immigration was declining) and Muslims, promising to build a wall, appealing to our fears.

When Dr. King helped build the civil rights movement in the apartheid South, he had a deep and abiding faith in America and in American values. He could endure beatings and insults and arrests because he had an unshakeable confidence that the freedom movement was appealing to the best of America. It is that confidence that will move people of conscience to organize the movement needed to make Donald Trump, who so fuels racial division that he must assert that he is not a racist, a relic of America's past, not the tribune of its future.

Dibaten Direchu

Dañkulu na mubimientu giya Guahan manala 'la' kutura yan mas impottante, dinisehan eksisiun direchu para u gobiernan maisa siha.

Umatotpe i segundu patte yan posision federat ni ilelegña na iyoña iya Guahan desde 1898. Kumeke ilegña na gaige tautau Guahan gi papa' banderan Amerikanu poresu na i asunto kanaha' makat makomplase.

Huñgan ha sosoyu' i UN na u masede natibu eksisiun ditetmision futunafña. Lau i asunto ligat 'nai sin konsimientun gobiernun federat siempre este na diniseha gai tiempu estake u guaha inapruueba ginen Washington.

I Organic Act tiha sede Guahan gi katkuet manera pot eksisiun direchun para u gobiernan maisague'. Gaige este na pudet gi disposision i US Congress. Lehitimu na ginagau lau anaku' na karera estake para u guaha suanu na disposision faboraple gi natibu.

Achog iya Puerto Rico esta 72 años desde ke ha plaiteha para u estadu. No siakassu i US Congress piot pa'gu na biahe 'nai pinesun ni pagyu. Lau ta dañe'e mañelu fumama kutturun natibu sa estague' 'nai gaige pisun sustansian man-Chamorro.

Tinilaika: Hinalum modetnu na teknalaye (technology) ha tulaika modun mamahan nesessidat gi tenda. Tat trastes kumu iphone, ipad, yan laptop manma-usa gi inenkatgan kosas siha "online".

Pininu' kareran para i tenda. Puru hoñu' batunes! Ti mabisita i shopping mall yan tendan otu siha trastes. Poreso na guaha 900 tantus na shopping mall giya America para u fan mahuchum na sakan.

Kontodu konsuttasion yan mediku puru ginen trastes modetnu. Unna' hanague notisia pot pinadesisimu. Finaisen hau dispues 'nos kuantos kuestion dispues 'nai dinispacha hau amot. Ha utut bisitan hospitat yan mediku.

Usun laptop giya Japon yan man-atbansau siha na nasion giya Uropa i estudianten ginen makinan komputa 'nai machuchule leksion niha. Esta ti manhahanau para i eskuela. Estague' otu modu ni tinilaika ni modetnu makinan teknalaye. Ayu 'nai mabisisita eskuela 'an para fina' huegu yan eksisiu.

Este na tinilaika siempr u fattu mage guine. I sisteman edukasion debi u tutuhun umatan este na modun finana'guen leksion gi estudiante-ta siha.

Antigu: Gi mediu sisienta siha na sakan unuyu' gi kehanten para umana' para mahatsan hotel (Continental) gi Puntan Muchot (Micro Beach) 'nai gaige pa'gu i Hyatt.

Este na lugat soñgsoñg peskadot antigu ni mahatsaye fanliheñg familia guihe na tiempu. I sustansian aksion mame dignu na presetbasion lugat antigu para i manatatte na famaguon natibu. Peskadot ni monhayan mana' gasgas guiha niha giya Managaha man-halum Puntan Muchot '. Mapatte dispues kineni' niha guiha gi señgsoñg.

Magahet na kada mattu-yu' guihe gaige ekun piniten konsensia-hu pot uttimofña maliñgu un' antigu na lugat peskadot tautau tanu'. Huñgan, ma'lag na kandet gi ge'halum, minachum atdau gi lemlem tautau 'nai maliñgu dispues gi puntan tasi gi sanlagu. Parehu na minachum atdau yan 'nai masohgue ginen natibu iya Puntan Muchot.

Antes sessu ta gonaf tiau, faya yan manineñg gi inai mientras tumalalaya si tata. Pa'gu puru kulot amariyu na buttu man-gagalileg gi hilu' unai mientras finagagase lañan tatautau niha ni rinisaken tasi. Dios mihi na tinilaika desde tiau esta tautau!

Man-ñiñge': Sumen agradesiyun kustumbreta man-ñiñge' gi mañaina-ta siha. Tafana'gue lokue' famaguon-ta nu este na kustumbre.

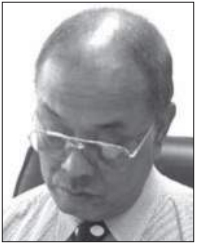
Tumekun i patgon, ta echa sinsiyu bendision na u felis kareña, dispues 'nai ta dispacha. Umeyag sattun respetu gi mañaina ya esta namagof 'nai ta konfitma giya siha i guaguan na bittun bendision saina. Mina' kontentu-yu' sa' tita fan masogne na hita bumende si Jesukristo dispues de chikun pagpag taimanu malabidan Judas!

Liñguage: Esta abarambau hinasog-hu 'nai huhuñgog usun Eñglis gi finanaguen finu' Chamorro. Si Pale Eric Forbes ha esplika hafa lañget 'nai ilegña "sky". Na ti lañget heaven, sky i mapagahes? Dispues, haf' na ti inna' setbe Chamorro gi esplikasion sustansian palabra? Na ti hamyu dispues mas muna' bulachu i finu' Chamorro?

Komprendiyon i mubimientun manala 'la kutturun natibu. Lau guaha siha man-mafrabrika gi karera. Ni achog ta guadog estorian natibu ti un' soda' tat imbarasus kumu kantan anaku' (chant).

Debi in' comprende na i Chamorro pot kuarto sientos años makepunu' ni Español, Haliman, Japones yan pa'gu Amerikanu. Tai kampu kumantan esalau pot kumakahat pot no

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

umapunu'. Haf' mohon?

Inaguaiya: Pot mas ke siñkuenta años i dos umasagua magualu'e un' dañkulun luncheria. Ayu na lanchu inyun familia pot mas ke 200 años. Siha uttimu i dos chumahlau ya mananum yan mamogsai pot mantension niha.

Gi halum pastahe gi fina' yanu gi hegsu' sessu i amku' hana' fañochu katdumin binadu fuera de ga'niha guaka. Ha chogue este kase tres biahe gi semana. Dispues ha tulusgue' para i hatdin ha assiste tinanum niha hanum yan abonu.

Fietmenti i dos asagua machogue che'chu' niha diariu. Dispues de sena matachoñg i dos gi baranda kumonbetsasion ñaihon antes de oran deskansu. Un' dia dimalas gotpe i palao'an. Mampos inestotba i asaguaña pot mampos hihot i dos gi todokinalamten niha.

'Nai esta i amku' ti halañgag didog mahalañg ni sinantusan na asaguaña ha bende enteru i gualu' ya humanau para i siuda. Lau antes de u hanau ha bisita pot uttimu besis i katdumin binadu. Ha togtug un' tatneru, ha chiku ha despidi. Sige ha sausau lago'ña 'nai ha huchum i pettan i lanchu pot uttimu besis. Fiet yan sinsiyu na inaguaiya.

■■■

Lache: Ha fama un' professot karisu na iya Marianas gaige gi papa' "guarded sovereignty". Malagnos este gi alacha gi Isla 63 radio giya Guahan.

Hu agañg halum na taya' konseptun "guarded sovereignty". I palabra (sovereignty) ha signifika na independente i nasion. Ti independente iya Marianas sa' gaige gi papa' banderan Estados Unidos De America. Iya America i independente na nasion. Patte Marianas gi papa' gobiernun federat.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Amelia Earhart monuments: A tourism asset

I'm writing this in collaboration with Ms. Marie Soledad Camacho Castro. For three consecutive years she was invited by Louise Faudry who has retired from the Amelia Earhart's museum to attend the Amelia Earhart event as a guest. In 2015, nine authors were invited for the Amelia Earhart event and she was one of the authors. While there are plans already on the "drawing board," hopefully this letter will help to speed up the process by educating the general public and our leaders in the Legislature in promoting the need for an Amelia Earhart Monument in the CNMI.

This year marks the 80th year of Amelia Earhart when her plane allegedly disappeared in the Pacific. Authors, professional researchers, and technologists have done every possible effort on this biggest lingering unsolved mystery of the 20th century but to this day they have found no conclusive evidence of her final days other than the eyewitness reports of her on Saipan. Given the lack of any empirical physical evidence it should be duly noted that the two individuals who admitted evidence of Amelia Earhart's presence here on Saipan in the late '30s are still alive. With all due respect to previous researches and given the lack of any other evidence, it is only proper and fitting that we honor the famous first American woman pilot who allegedly ended her life here on the island of Saipan based on the eyewitness reports that should be honored recognized and adopted as being factual.

A group of interested individuals have formed a committee led by Ms. Castro and wish to build a memorial statue of Amelia Earhart at the international airport on Saipan with a foam mock-up of her and her plane, which will be a very spectacular attrac-

tion and even contribute to the development of Mt. Tapochao as a new tourist destination on Saipan. The statue at the airport and mockup of her and the plane will not be based on her dying on Saipan but as a testimony to the world that Amelia Earhart was the first woman pilot to fly over these Pacific Islands. The recognition of Amelia Earhart's will be more about her accomplishments with only the possibility of Saipan being her final location before her death. The CNMI's recognition of Amelia with these two monuments will do a great deal to promote the CNMI as a location where Amelia Earhart has finally been recognized in the Pacific. The news of these two monuments will significantly complement the existing tourist industry for attracting tourists and the two sites will surely expand the island's tourist destinations.

It is critical that the CNMI "carpe diem" (seize-the-moment) to join with Atchison, Kansas in connection with Amelia Earhart's final days as it is unfortunate her dream to circumnavigate the world ended in our Pacific region. The CNMI does not have to try and officially proclaim Saipan as her last known location just to recognize her as the first woman pilot to fly over the Pacific Islands. These are just monuments for the mere purpose of recognition as a woman pilot breaking barriers. We will also always have visual authentication argument based on our own local people's accounts, which has even been on some national TV documentaries. Should there be proof in the future of her being somewhere else it would not adversely affect our monuments that recognize her achievements as a

woman aviatrix and not necessarily her last known location. The CNMI government should also try to acquire some funding from the Department of the Interior to assist with the duly deserved monument to recognize Amelia Earhart, an American pioneer in aviation for women.

Given the CNMI is now revamping its tourism industry with the casino and more hotels there is no better time than now to include this noble gesture that will also create more tourists and revenues for the CNMI. Now is the time to really begin completing the work to make the Amelia Earhart monuments a reality for the CNMI. So please contact your representative and senators to express your support for this all-important monuments to be built ASAP and promoted by MVA who could use something of this magnitude to promote the CNMI even more. Other islands have been mentioned and may also want to lay claim to Amelia's legacy in some way, which is why we need to be first.

The working group of Concerned Citizens is working with the Legislature and the Amelia Earhart Museum, Lockheed Aviation, which built her Lockheed Vega 5B plane, and other entities associated with her to promote the establishment of monuments in the CNMI. For more information on this issue and to join in the efforts to create these two monuments for Amelia Earhart please contact: Marie Soledad Camacho Castro at 323-2636 and email at bodigin4@yahoo.com.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

HALF

From Page 10

into the orifice of a sea animal, plastic doesn't biodegrade like organic matter but breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces that clog the ocean and get consumed by marine life.

So yes, little straws are a big problem. But getting a handle on them may not require something as drastic as a ban. A straws-on-request policy, which would be easy for restaurants to adopt, could make an immediate difference. Not only

would it save food service providers a few bucks on overhead (bulk straws may be inexpensive, but they're not free), it would convey a potent message to customers about the little plastic tube's environmental cost they may not have previously considered.

Here's another, potentially powerful argument in favor of straws-on-request policies: Some dermatologists believe repetitive sucking may cause or exacerbate wrinkles on the lips or around the mouth. Environmentalists should add that to their talking points. Vanity can be a powerful motivator.

A number of California restaurants have already adopted

straws-on-request policies, and good for them. Government-mandated bans and restrictions on consumer products ought to be a last resort, but they could and should be deployed when other conservation efforts have failed. It would be great if the food and beverage industry saw the wisdom in voluntarily curbing the use of single-use plastic straws rather than waiting for a government crackdown.

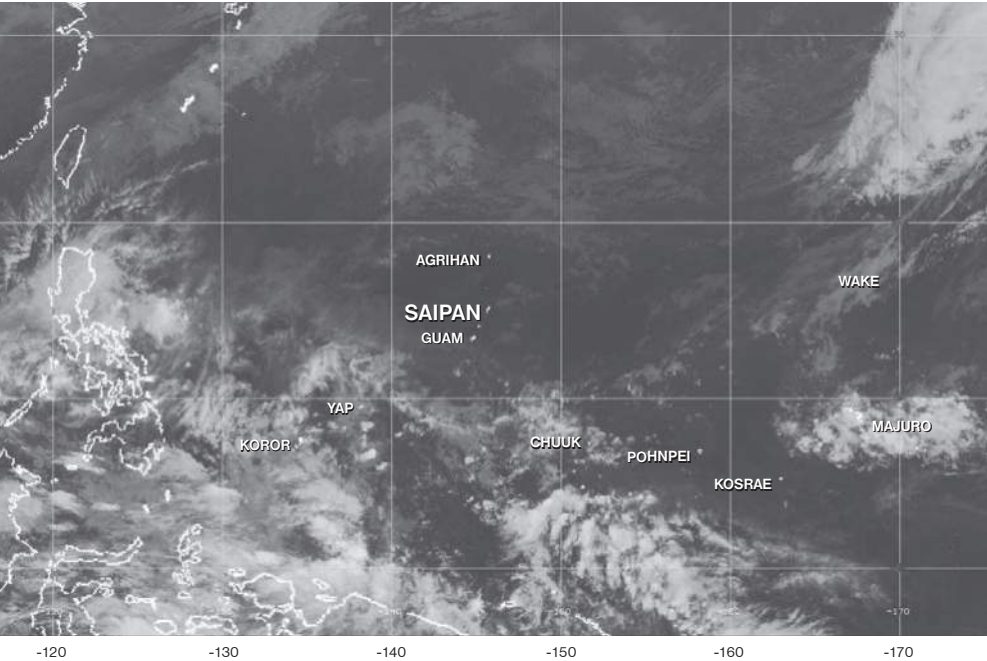
Then we can start talking about detachable plastic bottle caps and disposable plastic drink lids.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:08 AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Models continue to show a dry trade-wind pattern for the Marianas with only isolated showers for the foreseeable future. While combined seas are still 6 to 8 feet, those seas are almost evenly divided between a 4-6 ft east swell and a 5 foot north swell. This will preclude any hazardous surf or high rip risk for today and tonight. The east swell may rise a foot or so on Thursday, which would likely result in a high rip risk on east facing shores.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Rain	73° / 68°	
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 21°	
Hong Kong	Showers	70° / 63°	
Honolulu	Windy	80° / 72°	
London	Showers	46° / 36°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 53°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°	
Melbourne	Sunny	99° / 73°	
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 58°	
New York	Sunny	39° / 27°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	52° / 36°	
Paris	Showers	57° / 46°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	48° / 30°	
Rome	Windy	61° / 37°	
Salem	Sunny	47° / 24°	
San Francisco	Showers	54° / 46°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	39° / 25°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	52° / 37°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	44° / 25°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:36 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.28	
9:29 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.86	
3:04 PM	LOW TIDE	1.13	
7:51 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.84	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:22 am	7:05 pm	-
Friday	8:06 am	7:54 pm	-
Saturday	8:49 am	8:44 pm	-
Sunday	9:30 am	9:34 pm	-
Monday	10:10 am	10:24 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



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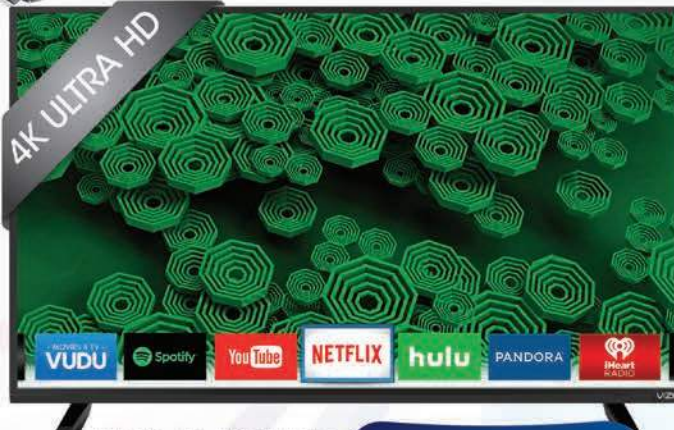
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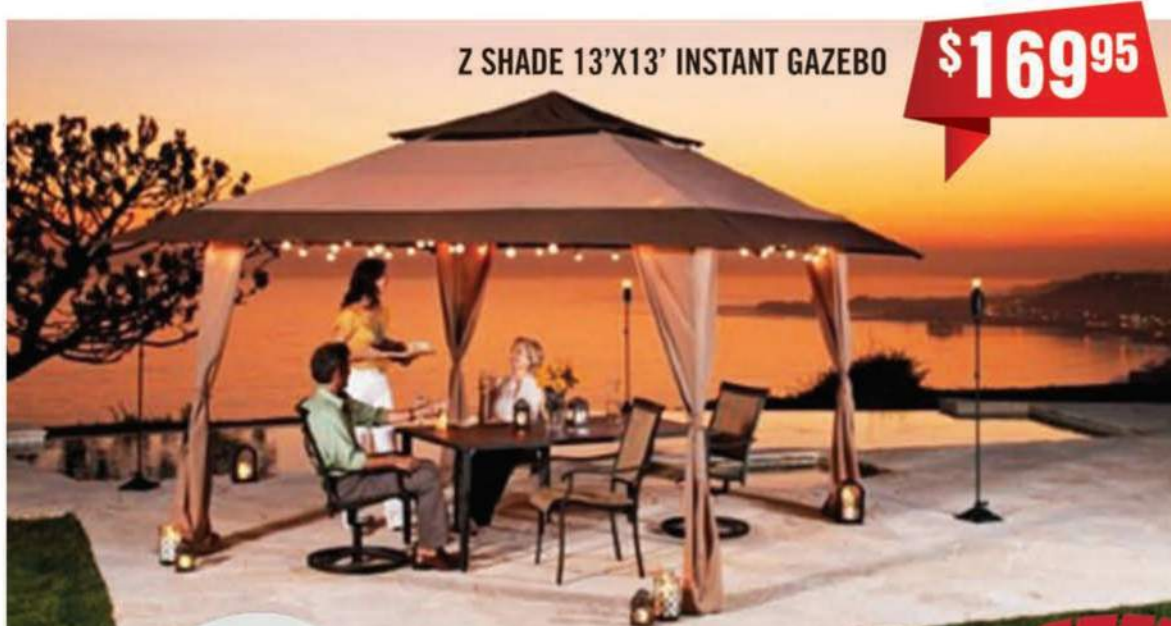
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\$15⁹⁵



IGLOO 5 GALLON SEAT TOP BEVERAGE

\$29⁹⁵



TRELLIS LOW BACK PLASTIC CHAIR

\$10⁹⁵



SMART SENSE 24CT WATER

\$5⁹⁵



HOMZ SPRING BLUE 18-GAL. TOTE

\$10⁹⁵



COLEMAN 16QT EXCURSION COOLER

\$19⁹⁵



GRACIOUS LIVING ADIRONDACK CHAIR

\$21⁹⁵



NORTHWEST TERRITORY DELUXE ARM CHAIR

\$10⁹⁵



DAHDOUL SOFT FLANNEL BABY BLANKET

\$4⁹⁵



ESSENTIAL HOME 8PK WASHCLOTH

\$3⁹⁵



SHARK GENIUS STEAM POCKET MOP

\$149⁹⁵



CRAFTSMAN 100FT HEAVY DUTY GARDEN HOSE

\$55⁹⁵



KRYSTAL KLEER WASHCLOTH

\$2⁹⁵



4PC RUBBER CAR MATS

\$5⁹⁵



ESSENTIAL HOME IRONING BOARDS

\$29⁹⁵



MIDDLETON 42" & CLARKSTON 44" CEILING FAN

\$79⁹⁵



CHILDREN'S MULTI-COLOR PLASTIC SWING

\$5⁹⁵



CHAMPION BREED 50# DOG FOOD

\$30⁹⁵



GLACIER BAY TOILET

\$149⁹⁵



GLACIER BAY VANITY COMBO

\$199⁹⁵



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Business

Wave of lawsuits filed to block net-neutrality repeal

NEW YORK (AP)—The expected wave of litigation against the Federal Communications Commission's repeal of net-neutrality rules has begun.

A group of attorneys general for 21 states and the District of Columbia sued Tuesday to block the rules. So did Mozilla, the maker of the Firefox browser, public-interest group Free Press and New America's Open Technology Institute. Others may file suit as well, and a major tech-industry lobbying group has said it will support litigation.

The rules barred companies like AT&T, Comcast and Verizon from interfering with internet traffic and favoring their own sites and apps. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai's push to undo them inspired both street and online protests in defense of the Obama-era rules.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who is leading the suit, said Tuesday that the end of the net neutrality rules would hurt consumers and businesses.

FCC spokesman Brian Hart declined to comment on the litigation.

The lawsuits are part of a multi-pronged approach against the net-neutrality repeal. There are efforts by Democrats to undo the repeal in Congress. State lawmakers have also introduced bills to protect net neutrality in

their own states. However, the FCC's order bars state laws from contradicting the federal government's approach. The FCC's new rules are not expected to go into effect until later this spring.

THE COURTS

Apart from New York, the other attorneys general participating in the lawsuit are from California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and the District of Columbia.

The New York attorney general says the FCC made "arbitrary and capricious" changes to existing policies and was unjustified in departing from the FCC's long-standing policy of defending net neutrality.

The legal challenge could face an uphill battle, however. Antitrust attorney David Balto says the courts have generally shown deference to agencies to set regulations as long as they provide adequate explanations. A court would likely judge that the FCC has the authority to class the internet as an "information service" and invalidate the prior rules, just as the Obama-era FCC had

the authority to label internet service a telecommunications utility and regulate it more heavily.

The parties may have to file suit again after the FCC's order is published in the Federal Register. That hasn't happened yet. The different suits may also be consolidated.

REPEAL IN CONGRESS

Democrats in the Senate will force a vote on a simple repeal of the FCC's repeal, using the same law, the Congressional Review Act, that Congress used to undo the Obama-era internet privacy rules. The vote probably won't happen for a few months.

Democrats need a least two Republican votes to pass a repeal in the Senate. Maine's Republican Sen. Susan Collins has already said she'll support it. But the resolution would probably run into difficulties in the House, where Republicans have a much bigger majority. And President Donald Trump seems likely to veto it. The White House has said it supports the FCC's efforts to roll back regulations.

However, if net neutrality does become a campaign issue with young voters in the 2018 elections, as some Democrats hope, they could use Republicans' "no" votes on restoring net neutrality rules to their advantage.

GE to pay \$15B for past mistakes amid breakup speculation

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—General Electric Co. will pay \$15 billion to make up for the miscalculations of an insurance subsidiary as a new regime weighs future changes that could culminate in a breakup of a company conceived in the industrial age.

The setback announced Tuesday is rooted in North American Life & Health, a part of the company's GE Capital division that helps cover the risks assumed by insurers that sell policies to consumers.

North American Life stopped writing new policies in 2006, but before that it re-insured about 300,000 policies covering the long-term health care of people in the final years of their lives.

The insurer underestimated how much it would cost to pay for the care of people who lived longer than projected, a mistake that was magnified when the low interest rates

of the past decade curtailed the investment returns on the policy premiums.

To make up for the shortfall, GE Capital will divert \$15 billion into North American Life through 2024. In the shorter term, GE will take a \$6.2 billion charge on its fourth-quarter earnings, which will be announced later this month. GE Capital will also stop paying billions of dollars to its corporate parent, which was founded 126 years ago and is now based in Boston.

Investors had known that the problems in North American Life would result in a financial hit to GE since last year, but magnitude turned out to be about five times more than had been anticipated, said RBC Capital Markets analyst Deane Dray.

"This is deeply disappointing," GE CEO John Flannery acknowledged.

GE's stock fell 55 cents, or

nearly 3 percent, to close at \$18.21 Tuesday. The downturn probably would have been more severe if Flannery had not hinted that GE might take the radical step of splitting up the main company's three main components—aviation, health care and power—into separate businesses.

In a Tuesday conference call, Flannery told analysts that there has been an ongoing review of about how to wring the most value from GE's disparate businesses since he succeeded Jeffrey Immelt as the company's CEO five months ago. "All options on the table, no sacred cows," Flannery said during the call.

GE born in 1892, already has shrunk dramatically since it became entangled in the financial crisis a decade ago, and Flannery has previously vowed to shed business units worth more than \$20 billion over the next year or two.

Nation

Trump administration appeals ruling on young immigrants

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Trump administration on Tuesday appealed a judge's ruling temporarily blocking its decision to end protections for hundreds of thousands of young immigrants and announced plans to seek a U.S. Supreme Court review even before an appeals court issues a decision.

Attorneys for the U.S. Department of Justice said in a court filing that they were appealing the Jan. 9 ruling by a federal judge preventing President Donald Trump from ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

The appeal was filed with the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In a separate news release, the agency said it planned to file documents seeking a review by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a statement that it defied "law and common sense" for a single federal judge to decide the DACA issue.

U.S. District Judge William Alsup in his Jan. 9 ruling said lawyers in favor of DACA clearly demonstrated that the young immigrants "were likely to suffer serious,



In this Dec. 15, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump, left, sits with Attorney General Jeff Sessions during the FBI National Academy graduation ceremony in Quantico, Va.

irreparable harm" without court action. The judge also said the lawyers have a strong chance of succeeding at trial.

He granted a request by California and other plaintiffs for a preliminary injunction against the administration while lawsuits challenging its DACA decision play out in court. Alsup also rejected the administration's request to dismiss the lawsuits.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said in a statement Tuesday that he was "confident the appellate courts will see the logic and justice behind the district court's issuance of the preliminary injunction."

DACA has protected about

800,000 people who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children or came with families who overstayed visas. The program includes hundreds of thousands of college-age students.

Sessions announced in September that DACA would be phased out, saying President Barack Obama had exceeded his authority when he implemented it in 2012.

Efforts in Congress to reach a deal to protect DACA recipients appear to have gotten more complicated in the wake of Trump's use of a vulgarity during a meeting with lawmakers last week to discuss an immigration proposal.

California couple's ordinary home held torture chamber

PERRIS, Calif. (AP)—From the outside, the brown-and-beige four-bedroom home looked fairly orderly. Inside, it was a veritable torture chamber for 13 siblings who lived with their parents, police said.

The couple who owned the home purchased it new in 2014 and soon arrived in the rapidly growing city 70 miles (113 kilometers) south-east of Los Angeles with their 12 children. They lived there quietly for at least three years and had another baby.

Then, on Sunday, one of the children jumped out of a window, called 911 and led authorities to the home and the bizarre scene inside.

Sheriff's deputies said they found the couple's 13 children ranging in age from 2 to 29 years old, some of them chained to furniture, all of them thin and malnourished. The 17-year-old girl who escaped was so tiny that deputies initially mistook her for a 10-year-old.

Riverside County Sher-

iff's Capt. Greg Fellows said the 911 call came from a cellphone that had been deactivated but still worked for emergency calls.

When deputies found the girl he said she showed them family photos that prompted them to visit the house. Authorities confronted the girl's mother, Louise Anna Turpin, and Fellows said she appeared "perplexed" as to why they had come.

Turpin, 49, and her husband, David Allen Turpin, 57, were jailed on \$9 million bail. They were scheduled for an initial court appearance on Thursday. Authorities said the pair could face charges of torture and child endangerment.

"If you can imagine being 17 years old and appearing to be a 10-year-old, being chained to a bed, being malnourished and injuries associated with that, I would call that torture," Fellows said.

He said there was no indication any of the children were sexually abused, al-

though that was still being investigated.

Neither sheriff's deputies nor child welfare officials received a single call over the years about the Turpin home, he said.

The investigation, still in its early stages, has already begun to unravel a surreal tale of a couple married 32 years who sometimes dressed their children alike, kept them away from outsiders and cut the boys' hair in a Prince Valiant-style resembling that of their graying father. Photos show nearly all the girls with shoulder-length brown hair parted in the middle.

Videos posted on YouTube show the couple renewed their vows at the Elvis Chapel in Las Vegas at least three times in recent years, most recently on Halloween 2015. An Elvis impersonator dressed in a glittering jacket performed the ceremony between songs. Most of the children, dressed in matching outfits, took part.

Asia

Japan public TV sends mistaken North Korean missile warning

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's public broadcaster mistakenly sent an alert Tuesday warning citizens of a North Korean missile launch and urging them to seek immediate shelter, then minutes later corrected it, days after a similar error in Hawaii.

NHK television issued the message on its internet and mobile news sites as well as on Twitter, saying North Korea appeared to have fired a missile at Japan. It said the government was telling people to evacuate and take shelter.

"North Korea appears to have fired a missile," NHK said, adding that a government warning had been issued. "The government: Seek shelter inside buildings and basements."

The false alarm came just days after Hawaii's Emergency Management Agency sent

a mistaken warning of a North Korean missile attack to mobile phones across the state, triggering panic.

NHK said the mistake was the result of an error by a staff member who was operating the alert system for online news, but did not elaborate. NHK deleted the tweet and text warning after several minutes, issued a correction and apologized several times on air and on other formats.

"The flash was a mistake," NHK said. "We are very sorry."

Tension has grown in Japan over North Korean missile tests as they have flown closer to Japanese coasts. NHK and other Japanese media generally alert each missile test, and the government has issued emergency notices when the missiles flew over Japan.

Japan is also stepping up its missile intercepting capabilities and conducting missile drills across the country in which residents, including schoolchildren and elderly people, rush to community centers, cover their heads and duck down to the floor. A major drill is planned in downtown Tokyo next week.

Unlike the mistaken Hawaii warning, the NHK alert did not contain the statement, "This is not a drill." NHK was able to correct its error in a few minutes, far faster than the nearly 40 minutes that lapsed before the Hawaii alert was withdrawn.

The Hawaii agency has now changed its protocols to require that two people send an alert and made it easier to cancel a false alarm.

Bangladesh, Myanmar aim to finish Rohingya return in 2 years

BANGKOK (AP)—Bangladesh and Myanmar have agreed they will try to complete the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled from violence in Myanmar within two years, Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry said a joint working group from the two countries finalized an agreement on Monday on the physical arrangements for the repatriation of the ethnic Rohingya. It said they agreed that the process "would be completed preferably within two years from the commencement of repatriation."

Myanmar and Bangladesh signed an initial agreement in November to repatriate the Rohingya, and the 30-member working group was set up last month to oversee the process. Many have questions whether Rohingya would return to Myanmar under the current circumstances, and whether Myanmar would accept them and allow them to live freely.

Under the November agreement, Rohingya will need to provide evidence of their residency in Myanmar in order to return—something many say they do not have.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR was consulted but it's very important the agency is fully involved to guarantee the repatriation adheres to international standards.

It's essential the return of the Rohingyas is voluntary, takes place "in safety and dignity," and allows them to re-

turn to their homes which will require a huge investment for reconstruction because of the destruction, he said.

It will also require "a huge effort of reconciliation is needed to allow it to take place properly," Guterres said.

"The worst would be to move these people from camps in Bangladesh to camps in Myanmar, keeping an artificial situation for a long time and not allowing for them to regain their normal lives," said Guterres, who was previously the U.N. high commissioner for refugees for 10 years.

More than 650,000 ethnic Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since August, when Myanmar's military launched a brutal crackdown in Rakhine state after a militant group attacked police posts. Myanmar's army described it as "clearance operations" against terrorists, but the United Nations and the U.S. have called it "ethnic cleansing."

Despite having lived in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar for generations, Rohingya Muslims have been denied citizenship, freedom of movement and access to basic social rights. They are generally called "Bengalis," a reference to the belief that they migrated illegally from Bangladesh.

Arif Hossein, a former teacher in a Myanmar government school who fled to the Kutupalong Refugee Camp in Bangladesh after violence erupted in August, said he would return if the international organizations working to protect the refugees are able

to go along.

"And if we get a nationality identity card in Myanmar, then we are more than willing to go back. We really wish to go back to our land. They should return our land and also rebuild our homes," he said.

Myanmar officials said the length of the repatriation will depend on how quickly Bangladesh can provide documentation of refugees' previous residency and how fast applications are submitted.

"Even though we are talking about a two-year process, it totally depends on how the two countries cooperate," Myanmar government spokesman Zaw Htay said. "Bangladesh authorities also need to proceed with the paperwork and documents for refugees and send it to us fast."

Since the November agreement, Myanmar's civilian government led by Aung San Suu Kyi has pledged to take measures to halt the outflow of Rohingya to Bangladesh and restore normalcy in the Rakhine region.

Myanmar officials plan to start the repatriation process next Tuesday. Zaw Htay said at least 500 Hindus and 500 Muslims will be in the first group to return.

State-run media in Myanmar reported Monday that a camp is being prepared that can accommodate about 30,000 people in 625 buildings, and that at least 100 buildings will be completed by the end of the month. It would be the first camp built in the repatriation process.

World

Macron visits Calais to preview toughened migrant policies

CALAIS, France (AP)—President Emmanuel Macron traveled Tuesday to Calais, the epicenter of France's migrant crisis, to lay out a new approach to immigration: help for those who want to stay, expulsion for those using France as a transit point and sanctions for security forces who overstep the rules.

The northern port city is a magnet for migrants because it is the closest point between France and Britain and has two cross-Channel transport systems, the Euro-tunnel and ferries.

More than 1,130 French security forces have been posted in Calais, including riot police, border police and gendarmes, to keep migrants out of the port and Eurotunnel and to stop them from setting up camps.

Macron laid out the broad lines of his immigration policy—humanity with a firm hand—in a speech before security forces, some of whom have been criticized for overzealous actions against migrants. The president's trip was a preview of a tough new immigration and asylum bill to be presented to the Cabinet in February.

Macron said the bill would



French President Emmanuel Macron shakes hands with residents before visiting a migrant center in Croisilles, northern France, Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018.

include a provision launching "automatic" expulsion proceedings against migrants caught trying to enter Britain illegally from France. "Calais is not a back door to Britain," Macron said, referring to the hundreds of people who attempt to reach Britain by sneaking onto trucks crossing the English Channel.

Macron declared that staying in Calais instead of applying for asylum in France is "a dead end" and vowed not to allow any migrant camp take root here again after authorities dismantled Europe's biggest migrant slum in 2016.

At that time, there were

more than 7,000 migrants in the sprawling, filthy camp on the edge of Calais, compared to up to 700 in Calais today.

Macron is meeting Thursday with British Prime Minister Theresa May in Sandhurst near London, and on the agenda is a 2003 border control agreement that he wants to change.

The 2003 Touquet Accords effectively moved the British border to the French port of Calais, where British agents help. The accord has spared Britain from receiving floods of migrants at its doorstep like other European countries, putting the burden of blocking their entry to the U.K. on France.

Nigerian army releases 244 suspects who denounced Boko Haram

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's army released 244 Boko Haram suspects who have denounced their membership in the deadly extremist group, Nigerian army officials said Tuesday.

Those released Monday included 118 adult males, 56 women, 19 teens and 51 children, according to operation commander Maj. Gen. Rogers Nicholas, who said they were freed after participating in a de-radicalization program.

One of the released females said she was accused of being a cook for Boko Haram and was held by Nigerian authorities for about a year.

Nigeria is trying to show it is making progress against the extremist group that has killed more than 20,000 people during its eight-year insurgency. Nigeria has arrested thousands of suspected Boko Haram members in recent years and is holding them in overcrowded military detention facilities.

Human rights groups say most of those detained have been picked up at random and without reasonable suspicion, including women and children. Former detainees have described malnutrition, mistreatment and deaths in the facilities.

The public release Monday of the ex-Boko Haram suspects at the military barracks in Maiduguri was done to mark Nigeria's Armed Forces Remembrance Day. Young men were paraded at the event in Maiduguri, telling the state governor they have turned a new leaf and are ready to help provide the government with information.

Borno State Governor Kashim Shettima commended the military its ongoing efforts against Boko Haram.

Nigeria's government set up a de-radicalization program in 2016 for arrested Boko Haram fighters who wanted to quit the group. The program houses ex-Boko Haram insurgents in a military-controlled facility

where they participate in exercises to rehabilitate them. They are granted amnesty if they denounce Boko Haram's radical ideologies.

Last year more than 800 Boko Haram fighters participated in the de-radicalization program under the Safe Corridor Initiative, said Nigeria's defense chief Gen. Gabriel Olonisakin.

The freedom granted to the 244 people came the same day Boko Haram's main leader, Abubakar Shekau, released a video in which he claimed none of the Chibok girls still held by Boko Haram would ever be found. He said his group last year "willingly" released 107 schoolgirls who refused to accept his creed, but the estimated 100 who remain are pleased to stay with Boko Haram.

He also mocked the parents of the remaining missing girls, saying they should consider his members as their sons-in-law because the girls are "happily" married to Boko Haram fighters.

Environment

Rat poison from marijuana farms is harming federally threatened northern spotted owls, study finds

By LOUIS SAHAGUN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The northern spotted owl has had many adversaries.

Three decades ago it was loggers, whose forays into the remote forests of the Pacific Northwest threatened the shy creatures, which have zero tolerance for the clutter of development.

Then it was the more aggressive and adaptable barred owls, which began moving into protected northern spotted owl habitats, forcing the federally threatened species to colonize less productive foraging grounds elsewhere.

Now, a new menace is taking root among the ancient trees: unpermitted marijuana farms suspected of spreading rat poison up the owl's food chain, according to a study led by researchers at the University of California, Davis in cooperation with the California Academy of Sciences.

"We have discovered a new potentially lethal threat to this struggling species that many conservationists have spent decades trying to save from extinction," said Mourad Ga-

briel, lead author of the study and a researcher with the UC Davis Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center.

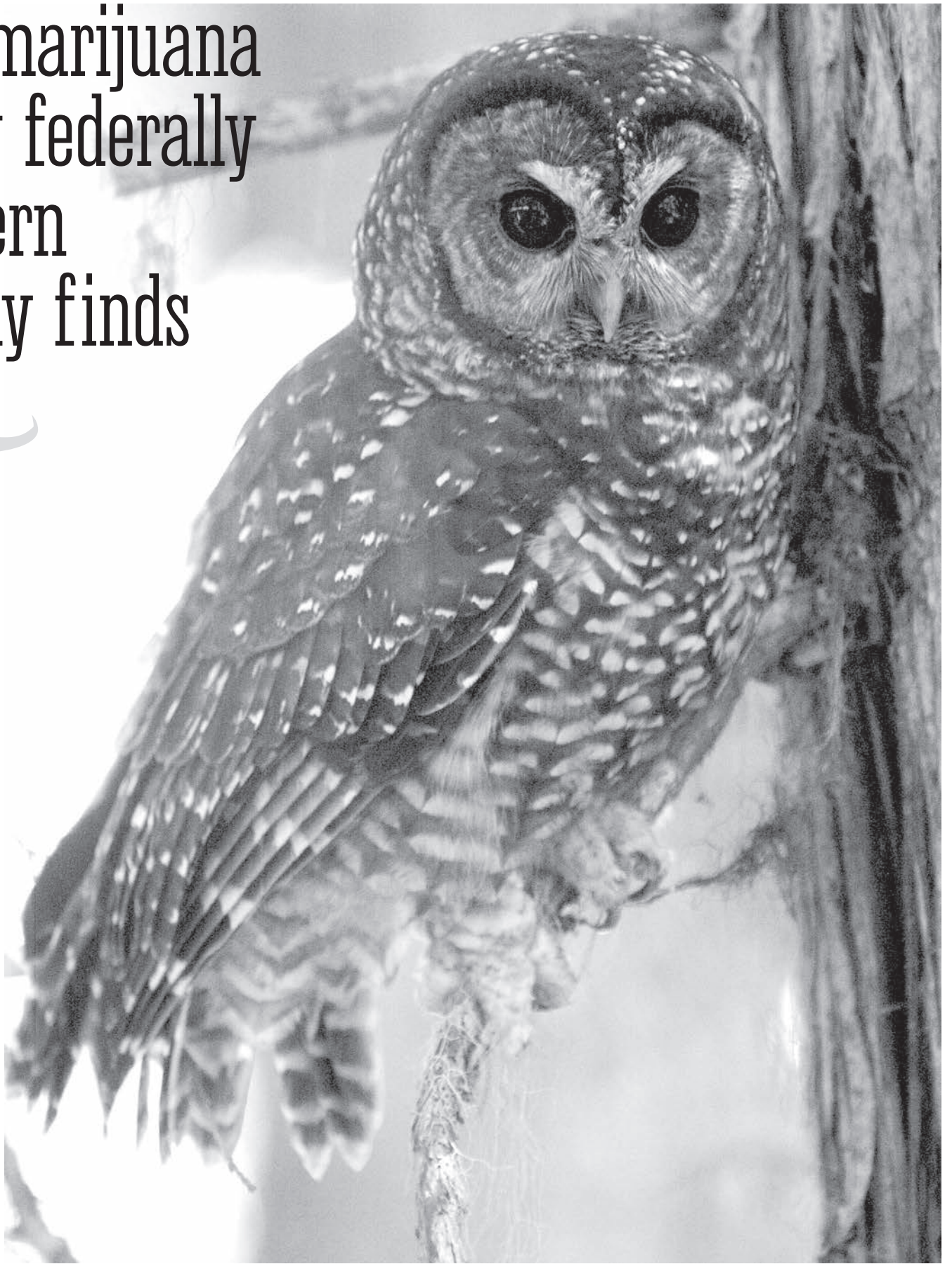
Seven of 10 spotted owls and 34 of 84 barred owls collected between 2009 and 2013 tested positive for anticoagulant rodenticides, the study published Thursday in the journal *Avian Conservation and Ecology* shows.

The study area encompassed Humboldt, Mendocino and Del Norte counties, a region where increasing numbers of marijuana cultivation sites overlap with the owls' hunting grounds, Gabriel said.

There are an estimated 15,000 marijuana farms in Humboldt County alone operating without regulatory oversight, Gabriel said.

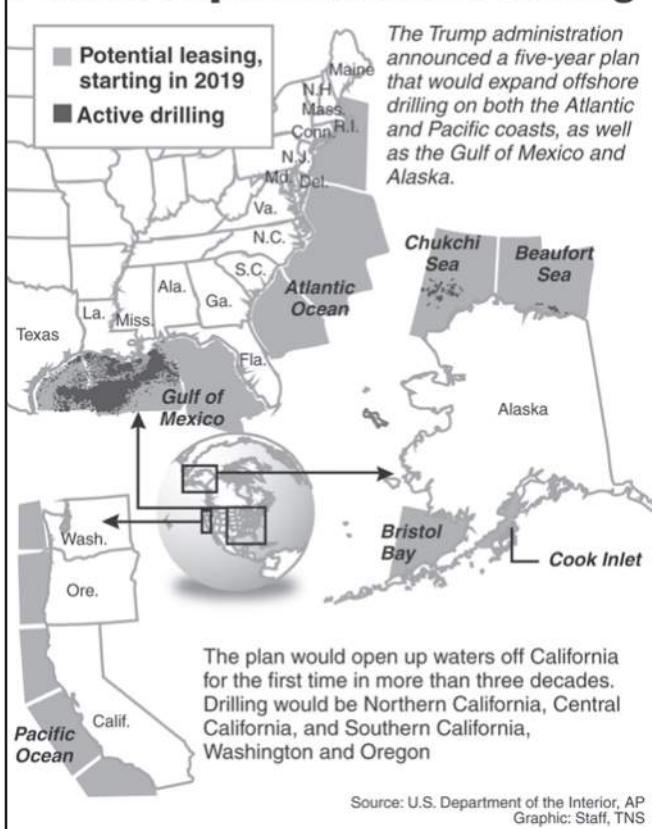
"If no one is investigating the levels at which toxic substances are being placed on private marijuana grows out there," he said, "the fragmented forest landscapes created by these sites can serve as source points of exposure for owls and other wildlife."

Separate studies conducted by Gabriel in 2012, 2013 and 2015 were the first to link rat



A female Spotted Owl sits perched on a branch of a tree among old growth near Mount Rainier forest land in Washington, June 27, 2008. Rat poison from marijuana farms is harming the threatened birds.

Plan to expand offshore drilling



poison and illegal marijuana farms to the deaths of fishers, a weasel-like mammal living in the Pacific Northwest.

Scientists fear the beginning of recreational sales of marijuana in California could spur the creation of more illegal cultivation sites that could further contaminate rodents eaten by predators, including birds of prey, Gabriel said.

Anticoagulant rodenticides inhibit the ability of mammals and birds to recycle vitamin K, scientists say, resulting in clotting and coagulation problems including uncontrollable internal bleeding.

Images of dead and dying bobcats, mountain lions, coy-

otes and owls shared among residents in the vicinity of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in 2016 attributed the animals' condition to the ingestion of prey contaminated with rodenticides.

All spotted owls collected in the study were found dead in wilderness and timberlands and submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field offices and the Humboldt State University Wildlife Museum in Arcata, Calif.

Efforts by federal biologists to remove and kill barred owls occupying designated habitats reserved for spotted owls provided tissue samples from that

species, Gabriel said.

All of the owls collected were from remote forested lands with no nearby urban or agricultural settings, suggesting the sources were marijuana farms, Gabriel said.

Anticoagulants had been used until 2014, when California banned the sale to the public of so-called second-generation rat poison, which is more toxic than earlier versions and remains in a target's body at such high levels that other animals feeding on a rat carcass often also die.

Anticoagulants rodenticides were not found, however, in rodents within the study area. But that was not

unexpected, the study says, since rat poison is "acutely toxic and likely to kill rodents in a matter of days."

The researchers said further study is needed to better understand the magnitude of the contamination and its effects on fledgling survival and embryos.

The study, which was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was part of an effort to "build a scientific case for increased forest monitoring and species protection before it's too late," said Jack Dumbacher, curator of ornithology and mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences.

Life & Style

There was little doubt who should take home the album of the year Grammy in 1984. That was Michael Jackson with a little record called “Thriller.” He won, of course, but the Recording Academy hasn’t always been seen to make the right call over its 60 years. And you don’t have to point to just Milli Vanilli to find some surprising decisions. Here are some others.

STAR CROSSED

The winner of album of the year honor in 1981 wasn’t Barbra Streisand, Billy Joel, Frank Sinatra or Pink Floyd. The winner was soft rocker Christopher Cross, whose self-titled album contained the hit “Sailing.” Streisand’s album “Guilty” gave us “Woman in Love,” the Joel record “Glass Houses” yielded “You May Be Right” “Don’t Ask Me Why” and “It’s Still Rock and Roll to Me,” the Sinatra album “Trilogy: Past, Present, Future” contained his classic version of “New York, New York” and the double-LP “The Wall” is considered by Rolling Stone magazine to be among the top 100 greatest albums of all time. Cross actually won four Grammys that year and called it “a dream come true.” It was head-scratcher for many others.

BEATLES BEATEN?

Glen Campbell’s “By the Time I Get to Phoenix” won album of the year honors in 1969 and its title single was a huge hit for the country icon. The record beat out Jose Feliciano’s acoustic covers in “Feliciano!” and Richard Harris’ “A Tramp Shining” (which had the massive hit “MacArthur Park”) but it also bested two rather fine projects: Simon & Garfunkel’s “Bookends”—with the songs “America” and “Mrs. Robinson”—and the



In this combination photo, country singer Glenn Campbell appears in 1969, left, and The Beatles, from left, Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison appear at a press conference in New York on Aug. 23, 1966.

The ‘Boogie Oogie Oogie’ band wins? Grammy’s big shocks

Beatles’ “Magical Mystery Tour,” with the songs “I Am the Walrus,” “Penny Lane,” “All You Need Is Love” and “Strawberry Fields Forever.” Rolling Stone named “Bookends” in its list of 500 greatest albums of all time and “Magical Mystery Tour” eventually went on to sell over six million copies in America alone.

BEATEN AGAIN?

No disrespect to Blood, Sweat & Tears, but it takes a pretty good album to beat both the Fab Four and the Man in Black in the same year. Sure, the jazz-rock band’s self-titled album had the classic tune “Spinning Wheel,” but was “Blood, Sweat & Tears” really a better album than “Crosby, Stills and Nash,” “Johnny Cash at San Quentin,” “The Age of Aquarius” or “Abbey Road”? In 1970, it apparently was. That’s despite the Cash album having “A Boy Named Sue,” The 5th Dimension’s album having “Aquarius/Let the Sun-

shine In,” the Crosby, Stills & Nash album being their well-regarded debut, and the Beatles’ LP containing “Come Together,” “Something” and “Here Comes the Sun.”

A BITTER TASTE

Disco wasn’t quite dead when A Taste of Honey managed to be crowned best new artist at the 1979 Grammys. A Taste of Honey? Yes, that was the band that gave the world “Boogie Oogie Oogie.” Who the band beat out is tremendous, with the gift of hindsight, of course: Elvis Costello, The Cars, Toto and Chris Rea. If the award was supposed to reward an up-and-coming music act, it failed. A Taste of Honey would never have another U.S. No. 1 hit. Meanwhile, Costello would blossom into one of the finest songwriters with such gems as “Alison” and “Accidents Will Happen.” The Cars influenced scores of artists with “Just What I Needed” and “Drive,” and Toto are still blessing the rains down in

Africa. (Just to pour salt in the wound, other bands like Van Halen, XTC, Devo and Kate Bush were overlooked in the category that year).

LUCKY MR. RICHIE

Voters in 1985 had one of the toughest tasks in Grammy history to anoint album of the year. There were arguably four modern masterpieces—“She’s So Unusual” by Cyndi Lauper, “Private Dancer” by Tina Turner, “Can’t Slow Down” by Lionel Richie, “Born in the U.S.A.” by Bruce Springsteen and “Purple Rain” by Prince. Lauper’s album gave us “Girls Just Want to Have Fun” and “She Bop,” Turner had “What’s Love Got to Do with It” and “Let’s Stay Together,” and Springsteen and Prince had, well, career-defining LPs that gave us “When Doves Cry” and “Glory Days,” among others. But it was Richie who took the honor with an album fueled by bona fide hits—“Hello,” “All Night Long (All Night),” “Running

With the Night” and “Stuck On You.” He must have been dancing on the ceiling.

WAIT, WHAT?

Not all the dubious choices were made long ago. One recent decision the Grammys might want to do-over was in 2014 when Macklemore & Ryan Lewis won best new artist honors. Looking back, it may not have been the wisest decision. The pair behind “Thrift Shop,” which has not aged very well, managed to beat out Ed Sheeran, whose albums now dominate the Billboard charts; James Blake, who went on to win the 2013 Mercury Prize; Kacey Musgraves, who has blossomed into a pure country-pop star; and Kendrick Lamar, considered one of the most dynamic, exciting talents in hip-hop. The voting that year was also called into question when Macklemore & Lewis beat Lamar for best rap album; even Macklemore acknowledged Lamar’s “good kid,

m.A.A.d city” was better. He kept the award, though.

WRONG METAL

The Grammys came late to the party when they introduced the brand new—but awkwardly titled—category of best hard rock/heavy metal recording in 1989. Metallica were nominated—and were favorites—for “... And Justice For All.” It was up against AC/DC (“Blow Up Your Video”) Iggy Pop (“Cold Metal”) and Jane’s Addiction (“Nothing Shocks”). But the award went to the folksy, flutey rock band Jethro Tull, whose “Crest of a Knave” was decidedly not a heavy metal record. The British rockers weren’t even there at the ceremony to pick up their award, but the stunned response by award co-presenters Alice Cooper and Lita Ford was perfection. Cooper later said he had to tell the crowd he wasn’t punking them.

OUT OF LEFT FIELD

In 2008, the album of the year award didn’t go to Amy Winehouse’s “Back to Black” or to the Foo Fighters’ “Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace,” Vince Gill’s “These Days” or even Kanye West’s mega-successful “Graduation.” It went to Herbie Hancock’s album of Joni Mitchell covers, “River: The Joni Letters,” the first jazz album to win the album award in more than 50 years and the only title in Grammy history to win album of the year before it cracked the Billboard 100. The Winehouse album was her second—and last—and contained the hit “Rehab,” ending up on many critics’ best of the year list and in Rolling Stone’s 500 greatest albums of all time. West’s album had “Good Life” and “Stronger” and achieved the highest first week sales week for any album in 2007. Both West and Winehouse left the Grammys with awards—but not the big one. (AP)

Box office top 20: ‘Jumanji’ hits No. 1 again

NEW YORK (AP)—After finishing second behind “Star Wars: The Last Jedi” for two weeks, “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” notched its second straight weekend atop the North American box office, taking in \$35.2 million over the four-day Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, according to final figures Tuesday.

Steven Spielberg’s Pentagon Papers drama “The Post” took in \$23.1 million in its nationwide launch, while the Liam Neeson thriller “The Commuter” opened with \$15.8 million.

The Taraji P. Henson hit “Proud Mary” debuted with \$11.7 million. And the sequel “Paddington 2,” bowed with \$15 million. Warner Bros. purchased the North American distribution rights for the Paddington Bear sequel from The Weinstein Co. last November.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Tuesday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Tuesday by comScore:

1	“Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle,” Sony, \$35,176,695, 3,849 locations, \$7,301 average, \$291,312,604, 4 Weeks.	11	“Ferdinand,” 20th Century Fox, \$4,863,022, 2,154 locations, \$1,638 average, \$76,891,116, 5 Weeks.
2	“The Post,” 20th Century Fox, \$23,055,654, 2,819 locations, \$6,868 average, \$27,544,891, 4 Weeks.	12	“Coco,” Disney, \$4,618,538, 1,362 locations, \$2,446 average, \$198,161,978, 8 Weeks.
3	“The Greatest Showman,” 20th Century Fox, \$16,177,587, 2,938 locations, \$4,244 average, \$98,931,455, 4 Weeks.	13	“Molly’s Game,” STX Entertainment, \$4,618,479, 1,708 locations, \$2,267 average, \$21,447,576, 3 Weeks.
4	“The Commuter,” Lionsgate, \$15,795,899, 2,892 locations, \$4,738 average, \$15,795,899, 1 Week.	14	“I, Tonya,” Neon Rated, \$4,068,388, 517 locations, \$6,504 average, \$10,767,207, 6 Weeks.
5	“Paddington 2,” Warner Bros., \$15,003,359, 3,702 locations, \$2,972 average, \$15,003,359, 1 Week.	15	“The Shape of Water,” Fox Searchlight, \$3,450,402, 723 locations, \$3,921 average, \$27,172,294, 7 Weeks.
6	“Star Wars: The Last Jedi,” Disney, \$14,627,721, 3,090 locations, \$3,836 average, \$594,902,305, 5 Weeks.	16	“Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri,” Fox Searchlight, \$3,075,421, 1,022 locations, \$2,464 average, \$29,283,880, 10 Weeks.
7	“Insidious: The Last Key,” Universal, \$14,353,765, 3,150 locations, \$3,943 average, \$50,594,905, 2 Weeks.	17	“Lady Bird,” A24, \$2,157,666, 652 locations, \$2,712 average, \$37,373,875, 11 Weeks.
8	“Proud Mary,” Sony, \$11,701,440, 2,125 locations, \$4,687 average, \$11,701,440, 1 Week.	18	“Wonder,” Lionsgate, \$1,627,928, 970 locations, \$1,248 average, \$129,016,502, 9 Weeks.
9	“Pitch Perfect 3,” Universal, \$7,326,950, 2,505 locations, \$2,393 average, \$96,326,175, 4 Weeks.	19	“All the Money in the World,” Sony, \$1,484,807, 1,408 locations, \$869 average, \$23,310,867, 3 Weeks.
10	“Darkest Hour,” Focus Features, \$5,415,720, 1,693 locations, \$2,636 average, \$36,631,272, 8 Weeks.	20	“Phantom Thread,” Focus Features, \$1,391,276, 62 locations, \$18,513 average, \$2,473,054, 3 Weeks.

A growing number of actors are renouncing Woody Allen

NEW YORK (AP)—A growing number of actors are distancing themselves from Woody Allen and his next film, heightening questions about the future of the prolific 82-year-old filmmaker in a Hollywood newly sensitive to allegations of sexual misconduct.

Timothee Chalamet on Tuesday said he will donate his salary for an upcoming Woody Allen film to three charities fighting sexual harassment and abuse: Time's

Up, the LGBT Center in New York and RAINN. The breakout star of "Call Me By Your Name" announced on Instagram that he didn't want to profit from his work on Allen's "A Rainy Day in New York," which wrapped shooting in the fall.

"I want to be worthy of standing shoulder to shoulder with the brave artists who are fighting for all people to be treated with the respect and dignity they deserve," said Chalamet.

Chalamet is just the latest cast member of an Allen production to express regret or guilt about being professionally associated with the director. In recent weeks, Rebecca Hall ("A Rainy Day in New York," "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"), Mira Sorvino ("Mighty Aphrodite"), Ellen Page ("To Rome With Love"), David Krumholtz ("Wonder Wheel") and Griffith Newman ("A Rainy Day in New York") have all in some way distanced themselves from Allen or vowed that they wouldn't work with him again.

The rising chorus suggests the road ahead for Allen may be particularly challenging, even for a director whose personal controversies have for decades made him an alternately beloved and reviled figure in movies. Financial support for Allen has not previously waned in part because of the eagerness many stars have for working with a cinematic legend. But fielding a starry cast may prove increasingly difficult for Allen in a movie industry in the midst of a "Me Too" reckoning.

"If I had known then what I know now, I would not have acted in the film," Greta Gerwig, who co-starred in Allen's



This combination photo shows director Woody Allen at the premiere of "Cafe Society" in New York on July 13, 2016, left, and Timothee Chalamet at the New York Film Critics Circle Awards on Jan. 3, 2018, in New York. A growing number of actors are distancing themselves from Allen, heightening questions about the future of the prolific 82-year-old filmmaker in a Hollywood newly sensitive to allegations of sexual misconduct.

2012 comedy "To Rome With Love," told The New York Times last week. "I have not worked for him again, and I will not work for him again. Dylan Farrow's two different pieces made me realize that I increased another woman's pain, and I was heartbroken by that realization."

Dylan Farrow, Allen's adopted daughter, has said Allen molested her in an attic in 1992 when she was seven. Allen, who has long denied the allegations, was investigated for the incident but not charged.

Farrow has previously questioned why the "Me Too" movement hasn't ensnared Allen. In an op-ed published last month in The Los Angeles Times, she wrote: "Why is it that Harvey Weinstein and

other accused celebrities have been cast out by Hollywood, while Allen recently secured a multimillion-dollar distribution deal with Amazon, greenlit by former Amazon Studios executive Roy Price before he was suspended over sexual misconduct allegations?"

Price, the former head of Amazon Studios, resigned in October following an allegation that he had sexually harassed television producer Isa Hackett while she was working on the Amazon series "The Man in the High Castle."

"A Rainy Day in New York" is the fourth project for Allen with Amazon, which bet heavily on the filmmaker to help establish its film production arm as a home to auteur filmmakers. It reportedly spent

\$80 million to lure Allen into television to make the 2016 series "Crisis in Six Scenes."

Amazon, which didn't respond to queries Tuesday, also distributed Allen's "Cafe Society" in 2016 and "Wonder Wheel," which opened December 1. It has grossed a mere \$1.4 million domestically on an estimated budget of \$25 million but had more success overseas, grossing \$7.8 million.

"A Rainy Day in New York," a romantic comedy due out sometime this year, also stars Selena Gomez, Jude Law, Liev Schreiber and Elle Fanning. In his statement, Chalamet tellingly noted that due to "contractual obligations" he couldn't comment on the long-standing allegations against Allen.

Timberlake previews album in forest-like space, bugs and all

NEW YORK (AP)—If the latest photos from Justin Timberlake's new album campaign don't relay the message that he's into nature and the woods, his first listening for the project drove the point home.



Timberlake

referring to the singer-songwriter known for his rock and folk sound.

He called "Man of the Woods" a "personal album" and said the record is a tribute to his 2-year-old son, Silas, a name that means "living in the woods."

"That's where I got the idea," said Timberlake, who attended the event with his actress-wife, Jessica Biel, as well as family and friends he said had flown into town to support him.

Tuesday's event in New York City to debut "Man of the Woods" was decorated with bushes and trees, while ants coated in black garlic and rose oil and grasshoppers were served.

But don't get too concerned about the pop star switching gears, the album—much like the lead dance single—sticks to Timberlake's musical persona, as upbeat pop, R&B and electronic tracks make up the collection of 16 songs.

Music industry insiders, members of the press and American Express cardholders—the company put on the event and will hold another on Wednesday—listened the full album as red lights beamed in the large space, which Timberlake helped design.

"I'm not going to go all Ray LaMontagne," Timberlake said at the listening, jokingly

Silas' voice appears on the album's closing track, "Young Man"; Alicia Keys is on the rootsy "Morning Light"; and Chris Stapleton appears on "Say Something," which seemed to be a crowd favorite at the event.

Timberlake, who will headline next month's Super Bowl halftime show, worked again with mega-producer Timbaland on the album. First single and album opener, "Filthy," debuted at No. 9 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart this week.

"Strangers Things" actor Gaten Matarazzo also attended the event.

'Murder, She Wrote' star Lansbury, 92, schools young actors

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Angela Lansbury has words of wisdom for young actors.

Lansbury, 92, who plays crusty Aunt March in PBS' new adaptation of "Little Women," advised newcomers to learn everything possible about the character they're playing and "don't just go out there and spout words."

Actors who fail to approach their work thoughtfully will end up "a flash in the pan," Lansbury said during a Q&A session with TV critics Tuesday.

"It's terribly important to

get out of yourself and into that character. Leave yourself at home," she said.

The two-part version of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, debuting May 13 on PBS' "Masterpiece" showcase, stars Maya Hawke, daughter of Ethan Hawke and Uma Thurman, in her screen debut. She plays aspiring writer Jo March.

Hawke called it a "huge gift and a huge honor" to work



Lansbury

with Lansbury and Emily Watson, who plays Jo's mother, Marmee.

Lansbury knows what it's like to be a novice amid big names: She was on the brink of turning 18 when she began working on her debut film, "Gaslight" (1944) with Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer and directed by George Cukor.

The stars were generous with their advice, while Cukor provided another kind of

learning experience.

Lansbury said she was late coming back from a lunch break to be confronted by Cukor.

"How dare you be late? How dare you keep this casting waiting?" Lansbury recalled him asking. "I hadn't realized the strict rules of the road."

"Gaslight" earned her the first of three Oscar nominations, and she received an honorary trophy in 2014. Her long-running role in TV's "Murder, She Wrote," earned her multiple Emmy nods.

Foot-dragging boyfriend puts engageet on endless hold

DEAR ABBY: I'm 28 and have been dating my boyfriend, "Spencer," for 2 1/2 years. We have talked a lot about getting married. We know where we want it to be, who will be in our wedding party and what the theme will be.

A year ago we discussed getting engaged. Spencer said he'd propose "sometime within the next year" and last spring it seemed like he was working up the courage to do it. (He was talking about how happy he was and what he was seeing for our future). Then his best friend got his girlfriend pregnant and told Spencer he was thinking about proposing to her. After that, the idea of us getting married went on the back burner. Spencer stopped talking about us, and I think the reason was he didn't want to step on anyone's toes. (It's why he said he didn't want to get engaged when his sister was getting married.)

How do I bring up the subject without coming off as pushy or selfish? A lot of our friends are in committed relationships. If we put our lives on hold every time one of them gets engaged, we'll be waiting years before it's our turn and we can start a family. I'd appreciate any advice you might have.

READY TO MOVE FORWARD

DEAR READY: Not knowing your boyfriend, I can't guess why you haven't received the official proposal. It's time to talk turkey with Spencer and ask him exactly why he seems to be stuck at the starting gate. It was considerate of him to postpone your engagement so it wouldn't distract from his sister's wedding plans. But for him to do it again because of his friend's impending fatherhood doesn't seem like a legitimate reason to me.

DEAR ABBY: I am a tween and I'm scared about getting a disease or sickness. It started when I watched the news one night last month waiting for a show to come on. The news had all these terrible crimes and diseases, and that's when I started freaking out. My friend says I'm crazy, and I'm afraid she's right. All this worrying has me really feeling out of it. What should I do to quit worrying about diseases?

SOUTHERN GIRL

DEAR SOUTHERN GIRL: There's a saying in the news business, "If it bleeds, it leads." It means the more shocking a story is, the more attention it will grab and

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



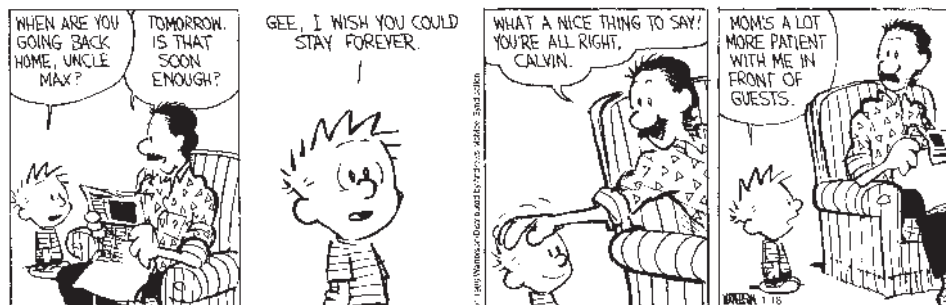
the more people will watch. Quieting your fears may be as simple as talking with your parents about what's scaring you, or having them schedule a visit with your pediatrician.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

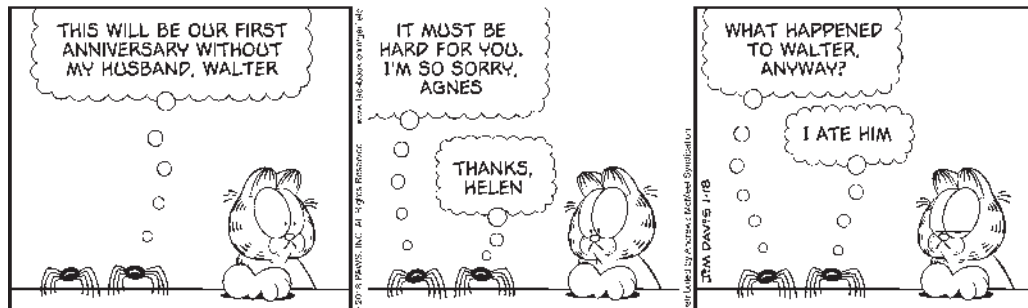
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



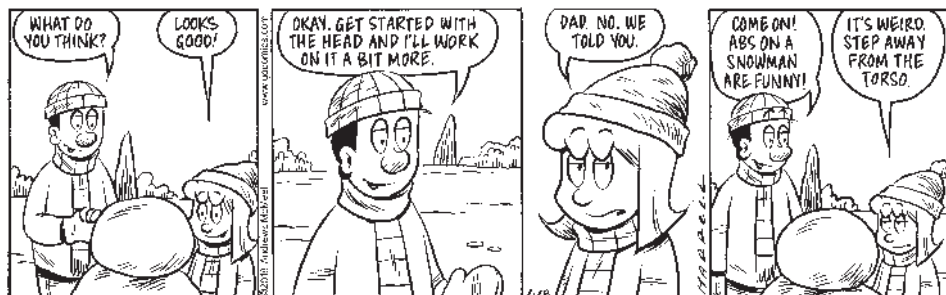
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Apple tablet
5 Devilish laugh
8 Italian wine region
12 Taboo
13 Exist
14 Boxing stats
15 "King —"
16 PBS funder
17 Ship's frame
18 On the schedule
20 Spanish dish
22 Boxing legend
23 NBC sketch show
24 "Phoey!"
27 Russian horse-men
32 Quar-terback Manning
33 Curved line
34 Melody
35 Killed musician

38 PC programs
39 Owned
40 Many millennia
42 Improved
45 "Let's do it!"
49 Valentine border
50 List-ending abbr.
52 Protagonist
53 Author Hunter
54 Glamorous Gardner
55 Cameo shape
56 Sobbed
57 Atlas page

58 Use a blowtorch
19 Chicago
21 Ninny
24 Cotillion celeb
25 Pie — mode
26 Bedtime drink
28 Tramcar contents
29 Twist-off bottle top
30 Olympic runner
31 Soon-to-be grads
36 Inventor's protection
37 Chemical suffix
38 "Be that as it may ..."
41 "I see"
42 Botched
43 Roof overhang
44 500 sheets
46 Actress Campbell
47 Spoken
48 Snatched
51 FDR project

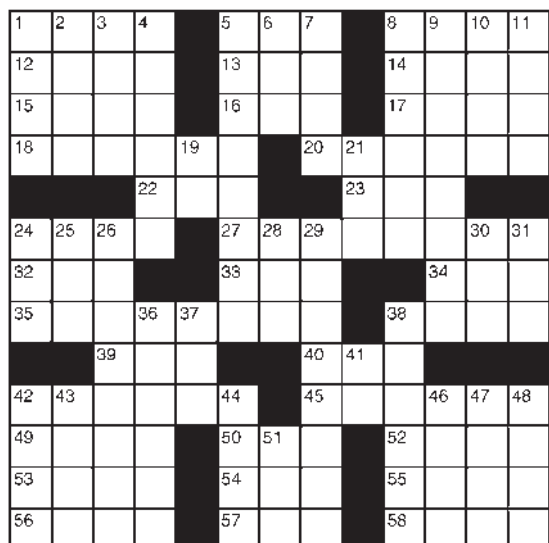
DOWN

1 Pen fluids
2 Motel amenity
3 "The King and I" role
4 Soldier's ID
5 Equalizer, in golf
6 Before Pile
8 Goddess of wisdom
9 Yarmulke
10 Bridge fee
11 Actress Fisher

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	C	T	S	G	A	S	S	T	A	B
L	O	O	T	U	F	O	M	L	E	
F	I	R	E	A	N	S	E	R	O	S
A	L	E	R	T	O	W	L	E	T	S
N	E	O	N	E	L					
E	C	H	O	V	A	M	P	H	A	L
V	I	I	D	E	B	I	T	O	L	E
E	A	R	I	N	O	N	G	N	A	W
E	T	S	B	A	I	L				
F	I	A	S	C	O	C	U	R	S	E
I	O	W	A	W	I	R	E	T	A	P
S	T	A	P	N	N	C	L	R	A	S
H	A	Y	S	E	X	N	E	R	O	

Yesterday's answer 1-18



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Segel, 38; Jesse L. Martin, 49; Mark Messier, 57; Kevin Costner, 63.

Happy Birthday: Keep your life simple and your projects doable. Taking on too much will result in getting little done. Stay focused and pay more attention to detail and getting things right the first time. Avoid indulgent behavior, temptation and poor influences. Strength and courage are a result of doing what's right, not from following the crowd. Choose what's best for you. Your numbers are 9, 13, 22, 24, 31, 37, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take the necessary steps to set up a better future. If you aren't happy or you feel you are missing out, do your due diligence and find out what your options are. Don't be fooled by appearances or what others say. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Relationships will take time and effort. Refuse to let anyone bait you into an argument. Don't waste time on someone or something you cannot change. Go with the current and you will find an alternative way to get ahead. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look for an outlet. A fitness regimen will help you blow off steam. Refuse to let your personal problems interfere with your work responsibilities or your friendships with peers. Utilize your time wisely to avoid conflict. Personal improvement is encouraged. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Joint ventures will not run smoothly if you and a partner cannot agree on expenditures, responsibilities or how things should be set up and executed. Consider working on your own and allowing everyone else the same privilege. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be easily distracted by what others do. Don't let temptation take over, leading to excessive behavior. Too much of anything will leave you short of cash and put your reputation in jeopardy. Stick to a budget when making domestic alterations. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Personal improvements can be made as long as you don't go into debt. Attend events that will broaden your awareness and encourage you to make new friends. Love and romance are encouraged and will result in personal happiness. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Personal improvements can be made. A change to the way you look or how you treat others will enhance your important relationships. Do your best to engage in activities that will bring you closer to those you love. ★★★★★

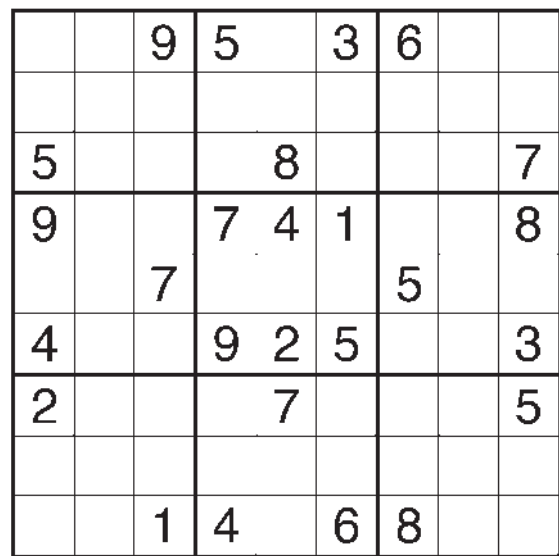
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take better care of your health and emotional well-being. An honest self-assessment regarding who you are as a person and what you have to offer will give you more reasons to bring about positive changes to important relationships. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Spend more time perfecting the way you look and how you treat others. Don't feel obligated to take on someone else's responsibilities. You'll be taken advantage of if you are too gullible. Put your own needs first. Romance is highlighted. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



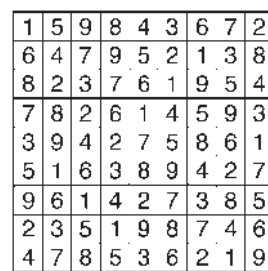
Difficulty Level ★★

1/18

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Partnerships will face turmoil if you choose to disagree. Question the outcomes based on the options you've been offered. Don't act on what you are led to believe when facts prove differently. Overreacting will not help resolve pending problems. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotions will make you face situations you may want to ignore. Don't run and hide. Getting to the bottom of a situation and revealing the truth will be essential to bringing about positive changes. Make smart choices. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Know what you want and devise the best way to go about reaching your goals. Refuse to let emotions take over when money is involved. Joint ventures are not likely to go as well as planned. Do your own thing. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, innovative and generous. You are powerful and emotional.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TYPES OF CAVIAR

Solution: 8 letters

R A I V A C H A G U R V E S S
E X P O R T F S A L T Y E P T
T U O R T R Y N I R B A H R E
O D S D E D A R G N W E O E E
B E A S S E D H F E R Y S A L
R S H C S O A A E I A A A D H
U S U O R N D F L L C G O E
B E A R V C A I F M H L U C A
S R R E Y N C I O I T A L Y D
I P S D R A S N N V T U E R E
L T E I T H G A K C A L B L M
V S V I G E G W A T E R O R R
E E O E X P E N S I V E I A A
R N L F G O L D E N N A C E F
N P L A T I N U M S C A R P S

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1/18

Beluga, Black, Briny, Burbot, Canada, Canned, Carp, Caviar, China, Cod, Cured, Dan River, Eggs, Expensive, Export, Fancy, Farmed, Fill, Fresh, Garnish, Golden, Graded, Harvest, Italy, Jars, Love, Ossetra, Ovaries, Pearl, Platinum, Pressed, Roe, Royal Fish, Salmon, Salty, Seaweed, Sevruga, Silver, Soft, Spherification, Spread, Steelhead, Tins, Trout, USA, Water

Yesterday's Answer: C'mon Get Happy

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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WHATZIT Solution: Out of the ordinary

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Website: www.developcnmi.com

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POSITION VACANCY:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CLOSING DATE:

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Saipan Office
\$23,394.03
Friday, January 26, 2018

NATURE OF WORK
This position requires a person who is detailed and has an eye for compliance requirements. It involves multiple and moderately complex duties in providing senior staffer in the loan department in a variety of responsibilities involving packaging and processing loan notes and or documentations. The position is also responsible for cash handling.

GENERAL DUTIES:

- Preparation of notes/loan documentations and processes
 - Prepares loan agreements, new or revised and other legal documents
 - Processes recording of mortgages and other legal instruments at Commonwealth Recorder
 - Prepares loan disbursements
 - Administers loan processing procedure based on CDA's policy
- Deposits and purchase requirement under SSBICI program
 - Review all payable invoices, data entry, check routing and distribution
- Loan Administrative
 - Compiles data for entry and various loan reports
 - Maintains internal loan status tracking system
 - Tracks UCC filings, inventory of real estate collaterals
- Cash Handling
 - Receives payments
 - Processes pre-authorized credit card payments
 - Inputs payment details and issues receipts

QUALIFICATION and OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS
Any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a BA Degree; plus one (1) year of appropriate work experience. Copy of diploma or official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with an employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office in Oleai, Saipan.

Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.

Oliver M. Manglona
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 7862 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 285-3750
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Thomas Arriola Rabago

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
Civil Action No. 18-0002

IN THE MATTER
OF THE ESTATE OF
THOMAS PINAULA
RABAGO,

Deceased.

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR LETTERS
OF ADMINISTRATION
AND APPOINTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATOR; and**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho
Date: February 01, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Courtroom: A220

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS,
CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE
THOMAS PINAULA RABAGO OR HIS ESTATE.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, **Thomas A. Rabago**, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the **Estate of Thomas Pinaula Rabago, Decedent**. The attorney for Petitioner is **Oliver Manalang Manglona, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by **Thomas A. Rabago**, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on February 01, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, **Gund Hustisia**, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **OLIVER M. MANGLONA, Attorney at Law at the address herein-above indicated.**

Dated this 05th day of January, 2018.

/s/
Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

Job Vacancy Announcements
YANO Enterprises, Inc. dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Assistant Manager (1): Be able to assist the general manager in the supervision of business establishment to ensure the restaurant & stores efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the restaurant & stores to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Restaurant Supervisor (2): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Accountant (1): Must be efficient in handling financial records, statements, & reports. Have knowledge on all Taxes computation & filing. Must be able to budget & estimate purchasing costs & requisitions of merchandise necessary in the company.

Restaurant Waitress (5): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Cook (6): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

General Maintenance (3): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of all positions listed above **except Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience)** are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Deadline to submit application will be on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 5:00pm.

Application by phone call will not be accepted.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Interested applicants must apply in person; applications can be picked up at
MISA Building Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Commercial Cleaner

- Must have 5+ years experience cleaning offices, restaurants, businesses, and residences.
- ONLY US residents are eligible to apply.
- Must be comfortable working around and cleaning up after dogs and cats.
- Will be cleaning windows, must not be afraid of heights.
- Very good with house plants and accountable for own scheduling.

Call 256-1041 (6:30-8:30pm)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Wanted Home Furnishing Purchaser/Retailer

- Must be able to show experience selecting, purchasng, and arranging shipment of fine ceramics, furniture and other home furnishings from SE Asia.
- Must have 5+years experience in the retail business.
- Must be fluent in Vietnamese, and English with some familiarity with Thai.
- Only US residents are eligible to apply.

Please call 256-1041 after 5:00 pm to apply.

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We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ACCOUNT ANALYST

Minimum of three (3) years related work experience and two (2) years supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality industry. A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting is required; CPA certification is preferred; Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Word and Excel) and must be knowledgeable in using Opera (Property Management System), Micros Symphony, and MAS 90 system (Purchase Order & Inventory Management Module); Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Minimum of five (5) years of relevant work experience plus three (3) years of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality industry. A Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance from an accredited college or university is required. CPA certification is required; Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, Powerpoint) skills is required. Experience using Opera (Property Management System), Micros Symphony, MAS 90 system (General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, Inventory Management modules), Kronos Payroll System, AS400 Payroll System, FAS Asset Accounting Program and Online Bank's Business Connection (Web-Cash Management System) is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

Minimum five (5) years work experience with at least two (2) years of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred; Strong knowledge of Excel and Word and must be knowledgeable in using Opera (Property Management System), Micros Symphony, MAS 90 (integrating the General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, and Inventory Management modules) and Online Bank Business Connection (WebCash Management System). Must be able to work evening, weekends and holidays.

(1) AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC

Minimum of four (4) years of relevant work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT ENGINEERING MANAGER

Minimum of three (3) years of Engineering industry experience at a hotel plus two (2) years of supervisory experience. A Vocational degree or an Associate degree in Electrical Engineering or combination and/or related experience in the Engineering field is required. Technical knowledge and proficiency on electrical, plumbing and boiler operations is preferred. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hrs business are also essential. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (word and excel). Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER

Minimum of five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required. Minimum of three (3) years of Banquet leadership role required. An Associate's Degree or higher or equivalency related to hotel food and beverage. Will manage all service aspects of food and beverage functions in accordance with the policies of the hotel. Must be able to make right decisions to ensure guests satisfaction and judge employee performance and standards. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be knowledgeable of banquet set-ups, policies and procedures. Must have experience in budgeting and managing banquet operations. Must be able to successfully coordinate staff and resources in high volume, time sensitive environment. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT FRONT OFFICE MANAGER

Assists with the Front Office operations, including a Call Center, Concierge, Tour Desk and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to train employees to ensure standards of the hotel are met. Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be able to solve guest complaints and work in a high-pressured environment. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGER

Minimum of five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required, plus have a minimum of three (3) years of experience working in a supervisory role in Food & Beverage. Proficient with the use of Microsoft Office and the use of Micros point-of-sale systems. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BAKER

Minimum of three (3) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(4) BARTENDER

Minimum one (1) year work experience; Must be at least 21 years old. Ability to speak Chinese, Korean, Russian or Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR

Minimum of five (5) years of bartender experience, with at least one (1) year of supervisory experience in a similar role. Must be at least 21 years old. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(4) BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Minimum of three (3) years of related experience working in a similar role at a hotel, plus one (1) year supervisor experience required. A High School diploma or higher is required. Any combination of education and related work experience will be considered. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(5) CARPENTER

Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpenter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) CHEF DE CUISINE

Minimum of three (3) years of relevant working experience in a familiar role for a hotel or resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have good knowledge of food preparation, food safety standards and have the ability to train and lead a team. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(6) CHEF DE PARTIE

Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) CHEF DE PARTIE (CHINESE CUISINE)

Minimum of three (3) years of experience in overseeing the production of Chinese cuisine for hotels, restaurants or banquets. Must have strong knowledge of Chinese cuisine. Plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATES

Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Minimum IT industry experience (5 years minimum) required; thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required, this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and server operating systems, Microsoft application support, SQL 2017 & Oracle database administration skills and corporate anti-virus software, Access database and Active Directory 2012 experience is highly desirable. Experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP, and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, network security, network configuration, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support, System backups and general network administration. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hr business are also essential. A+, Network +, and/or MCP certification are also highly desirable.

(14) COOK

Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) COOK – THAI CUISINE

Minimum of two (2) years work experience in preparing Thai and Asian cuisine. Must be able to coordinate and support team members within the kitchen department. Must be able to communicate clearly in English. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

Minimum of ten (10) years of Engineering industry experience managing diesel operation and repairs for a hotel plus five (5) years management experience is required. A Bachelor's degree in Engineering is required. Must possess technical knowledge and experience on 3516 and 3512 Caterpillar Generators, 85 KW aqua design desalination plants, chiller systems, pumps, filtration systems for swimming pools and reverse osmosis systems are required. Must be certified Reserve Osmosis (RO) Operator Level 2 in water treatment and Level 1 in water distribution system. Must have knowledge and experience in handling Diesel Plants and Reserve Osmosis (RO) Operations. Must have technical knowledge and experience on SMARTD Oil less and Screw type Chillers System. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hour business. Proficient and knowledgeable in the use of Microsoft Office (word and excel). Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR

Minimum of one (1) year of relevant experience working in a similar position at a hotel, plus one (1) year of

supervisory experience is required. Vocational degree, an Associate degree, diploma in Engineering or any combination to its equivalent in the Engineering field is required. OSHA Certified and knowledge in handling hazardous materials is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) ELECTRICIAN

Minimum of five (5) years work experience. Must be able to work shifts, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR (SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES)

Minimum of five (5) years of proven experience in the electrical/electronic fields and the ability to demonstrate high proficiency in these areas is required. A thorough knowledge of electrical / electronic components and equipment including the use of special instruments for diagnostic purposes is required. Skill-level requirements vary from troubleshooting to board- or component-level repair. Willing to work any shift and overtime as required. Applicants must be versed in all aspects of the "Clubmate" position. Strong communication, interpersonal and customer service skills are essential. The position requires the ability to work under pressure and time constraints. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) EXECUTIVE SOUS CHEF

Minimum of six (6) years of progressive experience in high volume food production or catering in multi-unit restaurant Hotel or Resort environment. Experience preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have at least two (2) years of supervisory experience in a similar role. Must have the following: strong leadership/communication skills at all levels of the organization. Exceptional guest focus and proven positive employee relations skills a must. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(7) FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR

Must have at least three (3) years related work experience in Food & Beverage service, two (2) years of supervisory experience, plus one (1) year relevant work experience in coordinating events; Supervises employees engaged in serving foods in restaurants and maintaining cleanliness of food service areas and equipment; must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FOOD SERVER CAPTAIN

Minimum of six (6) month's work related experience is required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR

Minimum of two (2) years previous experience as a Front Desk Supervisor is required. Must be resourceful, take ownership of problems and issues that arise and have excellent problem-solving skills. Must have the ability to work well under pressure and to lead a team. In addition to managing the daily operations at the desk, must have the ability to provide the Front Desk Clerks with necessary training and support. Fluency in Korean, Japanese or Russian is preferred. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) FRONT OFFICE MANAGER

Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Excellent Leadership with written and oral communication skills is necessary. Must have the ability to manage all aspects of the Front Office operations, including a Guest Relation, Call Center, and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to set Front Office Budget, monitor Profit and Loss. Must have the ability to set an upsell program and work as part of the Yield Management team in maximizes revenue for the hotel. Must computer knowledge on as PMS-Property Management System, Opera. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Minimum of three (3) years related work experience, preferably in a large hotel. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) GUEST RELATIONS

Minimum of one (1) year hospitality experience. Must have the ability to solve guest concerns and cash handling. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian, Japanese or Chinese. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) GUEST SERVICE SUPERVISOR

Minimum of two (2) years supervisory experience plus experience driving large passenger vehicles are required. Must be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid CNMI driver's license, and pass a medical exam and substance abuse test. Must provide a traffic clearance with application. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR (ROOMS)

Minimum of one (1) year housekeeping supervisor experience required (minimum 300-room hotel). Motivated self-starter with the ability to clean rooms as required.

Responsible for checking up to 70 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excess hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) HVAC TECHNICIAN

Minimum of four (4) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

Minimum of five (5) years of I.T. industry experience and Bachelor's degree in IT related field required. Thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required; this includes all Microsoft Windows desktop and Server Operating Systems, Microsoft application support, Opera System, SQL 2017 & Oracle database, MAS90 Accounting System, administration skills, Corporate Anti-virus software, Access database, Crystal Report XI and report design skills with IIS, ASP and HTML Skills. Linux skills and Active Directory 2012 experience is highly desirable. Experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, SPAM and Virus Firewall, IP Surveillance Systems, network security, network configuration and construction, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of VPN, VPN encryption, PC and server hardware, new PC and server installations, configuration and support of Mitel IP Phone Systems, System backups and general network administration. A+, Network +, and/or MCP certification are also highly desirable. Should be knowledgeable in utilizing a hotel database. Must have a thorough working knowledge of web programming and systems analysis. Must have general management ability as well as specific knowledge of the company's computer/network systems. Must be able to communicate with all department heads in the company that require computer and network systems. Must be able to translate the requirements of each department into a workable computer operation. Must keep up with new developments in computers, Networking and (VOIP) voice over IP equipment. Must have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hr business.

(1) LANDSCAPING SUPERVISOR

Minimum of two (2) years of related work experience in a similar role working at a hotel plus two (2) years of supervisory experience in a similar role. A High School diploma or higher is required. Must be able to utilize or operate landscaping tools and equipment. Previous experience in executing landscaping-related project is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) LAUNDRY ATTENDANT

Minimum of three (3) months of work experience; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) LEAD COOK

Minimum of three (3) years experience as a cook. At least one (1) year supervisory experience preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) MUSICIAN

Minimum of two (2) years experience as a musician. Must be able to perform music in English as well as Japanese/Korean/Russian. Need to be able to play a variety of music genres, classical, pop, rock, reggae, country etc. Must be able to play on an individual, duo and trio basis. At least one member must be a classical pianist, playing classical music during restaurant dining hours. Must be able to host events, MC events, be able to promote audience participation during sing-a-long shows. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. Subject to audition.

(1) NIGHT AUDITOR

Minimum of five (5) years of relevant work experience and College graduate with a major in Accounting. Must have business knowledge on basic functions of debits and credits; Knowledge on hotel-related systems particularly on front office systems and point-of-sale systems of the hotel industry; Strong knowledge of Excel and Word; and must be knowledgeable in using Opera (Property Management System), Micros Symphony, and Oracle Hospitality Reporting and Analytics; Familiarity on how the hotel settlement system works. Position requires work from 11:30p.m – 7:30a.m and may require work during weekends and holidays.

(1) PAINTER

Minimum of three months (3) related work experience as a painter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) PASTRY COOK

Minimum of two (2) years of relevant work experience working in pastry for a hotel. Associate's degree in Culinary Arts. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) PASTRY COOK HELPER

Minimum of two (2) years of related experience with bread making, pastry making and cake decorating. Must have previous experience in high volume production including large banquets, functions and special events. High School Diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work early mornings, nights, weekends and holidays.

(2) PLUMBER

Minimum of five years related work experience; must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

(3) POOL MAINTENANCE

Minimum of two (2) years related work experience. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) POOL MAINTENANCE CAPTAIN

Minimum of two (2) years related work experience working at a hotel in a similar role is required. A High School diploma or higher is required. Previous HAZMAT training is preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(5) POWERHOUSE OPERATOR

Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Certified Water Treatment & Distribution operator preferred. Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) POWERHOUSE SUPERVISOR

Minimum of three (3) years experience in diesel power generator operations and one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must be a certified Water Treatment operator Class 2 and Water Distribution Class 1. Must be certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) RESERVATION CLERK

Minimum of six (6) months working experience in a hotel. Must be able to use hotel PMS (Micros Opera) and Microsoft office (Word / Excel). Must be able to speak, read, and write in English and either Korean, Russian, Chinese or Japanese. The languages listed are preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(3) ROOM ATTENDANT

Minimum of one (1) year of experience as a room attendant for a hotel. Motivated, self-starter responsible for cleaning up to 18 rooms per shift. Must have the ability to bend, lift, carry & move items weighing 50 pounds. Must be able to stand for long excessive hours. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) SALES & MARKETING COORDINATOR – KOREAN MARKET

Minimum of five (5) years of hospitality/hotel or travel agent sales experience. Must be proficient in speaking, reading, and writing in English and Korean, and be proficient with the use of hotel PMS (Micros Opera) and Microsoft Office (Word / Excel). Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) SALES MANAGER – CHINA MARKET

Minimum of three (3) years of hotel industry experience, plus one (1) year of Chinese Market sales management experience. Must be proficient in speaking, reading, and writing in English and Chinese, and be proficient the use of hotel PMS (Micros Opera) and Microsoft Office (Word / Excel). Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) SALES MANAGER – JAPAN MARKET

Minimum of three (3) years of hotel industry experience, plus one (1) year of Japanese Market sales management experience. Must be proficient in speaking, reading, and writing in English and Japanese, and be proficient with the use of hotel PMS (Micros Opera) and Microsoft Office (Word / Excel). Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) SALES MANAGER – KOREAN MARKET

Minimum of five (5) years of hotel industry experience, plus three (3) years of Korean Market sales management experience. Must be proficient in speaking, reading, and writing in English and Korean, and be proficient with the use of hotel PMS (Micros Opera) and Microsoft Office (Word / Excel). Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) SCHEDULER / CLUBMATE (SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES)

Must be a certified American Red Cross lifeguard with a minimum of three (3) years of experience. Must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills. Must have working knowledge of Microsoft Word and be proficient with Microsoft Excel, with the ability to work well under pressure. Strong attention to detail and the ability to work under deadlines are necessary qualifications for the S.E.A Scheduler. Applicants must be versed in the operations and rotations of the S.E.A department. Position will be asked to work various shifts in the hotels' waterpark, so sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills preferred.

(1) SOUS CHEF

Minimum of three (3) years of relevant experience working in a similar role for a hotel or resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have good knowledge of food production, food safety standards and have the ability to train and lead a team. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(5) TEPPANYAKI COOK

Minimum of five (5) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Federer breezes through first round match



MELBOURNE (AP)—Roger Federer has continued the longest first-round winning streak in tennis, easing past Slovenian Aljaz Bedene to make it 19 successive tournament-opening wins at the Australian Open.

Federer, the world number two and title favourite, went unbroken in his 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 win on Rod Laver Arena in just one hour and 39 minutes.

The reigning champion next faces German Jan-Lennard Struff in his quest to win his 20th major, and his sixth at Melbourne Park.

Federer was untroubled on Tuesday night, returning to the scene of his remarkable comeback win last year for the first time.

"I was thinking back a lot about what happened last year because it was my favourite tournament last year hands down," Federer said.

"Walking out here...being back here in Melbourne is an amazing feeling and hopefully I can keep it going a little bit longer."

Bedene, who previously represented Great Britain before switching back to his country of birth this year, could only fashion two break point opportunities all night.

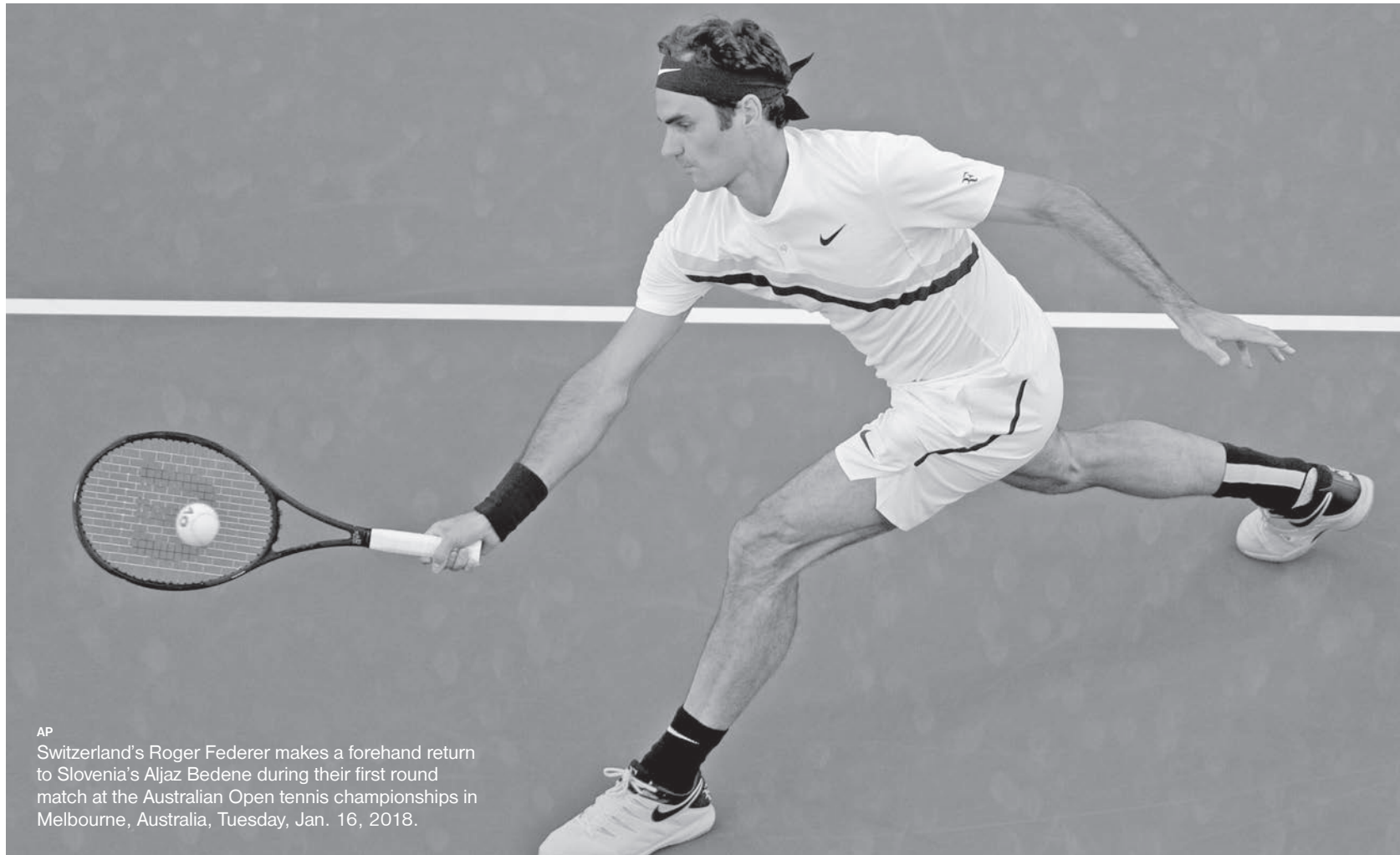
Ahead 2-1 in the second set, he had two chances to break the legendary Swiss at 15-40.

Federer replied with an unreturnable serve out wide and an outrageous down-the-line forehand to close the idea down.

His net play was particularly strong, winning 26 points coming forward. He hit 12 aces to deny Bedene a first win at Melbourne Park.

Federer's trickiest adversary of the night may have come after his match via a cringe-worthy on-court interview with actor Will Ferrell.

In other men's results during the night session, fifth seed Dominic Thiem posted



AP
Switzerland's Roger Federer makes a forehand return to Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018.

a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 triumph over Guido Pella.

The 12th-seeded Juan Martin del Potro also advanced to the second round by beating Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Spanish third seed Garbine Muguruza has booked a second-round berth in the women's draw with a comfortable win over French wildcard Jessica Ponchet.

The two-time major singles champion has been under an injury cloud but looked untroubled in her 6-4, 6-3 victory.

The 24-year-old Muguruza won her first match at the Sydney International but then withdrew with a hip problem.

Kvitova double-faulted on match point, two points after hitting a half-court volley into the net. She had earlier saved three match points in the 10th game of the final set.

Last year during the Australian Open, Kvitova was recovering from surgery to her left hand as a result of a knife attack from an assailant who broke into her home in Czech Republic in late 2016.

Kvitova, the 27th-seed player this year, was a semi-finalist in Australia in 2012 and also made the quarterfinals in 2011.

In other results, Maria Sharapova has defeated German Tatjana Maria to move into the second round.

The 2008 Open champion won 6-1, 6-4 as she tries to resurrect her career after serving a 15-month suspension for using a banned substance.

Sharapova served the suspension for taking controversial medication meldonium during the 2016 Australian Open.

The controversy around the suspension saw criticisms lev-

elled at Australian Open organisers and broadcaster Channel Seven after Sharapova was given the red-carpet treatment at the tournament draw.

But Sharapova put that be-

hind her with a clinical performance to get her campaign underway, belting 22 winners to Maria's seven in a straight-sets win.

Former Australian Open

champion Angelique Kerber has cruised into the second round, dropping just four games in her opening match against compatriot Anna-Lena Friedsam.

Djokovic denies report on Australian Open boycott

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Novak Djokovic has rejected reports that leading men could potentially boycott future Grand Slams over prize money, though he did confirm that players held an hour-long private meeting on the eve of the Australian Open to discuss issues pertinent to the ATP Tour.

Djokovic, who is president of the ATP Player Council, didn't specify what issues were raised at the meeting, but said media reports stating that he proposed forming a tennis players' union to push for a greater share of revenue generated by tournaments were exaggerated or largely incorrect.

"I saw that you've portrayed me as someone who is very greedy, asks for more money and wants to boycott," Djokovic told a news conference following his first-round win over Donald Young on Tuesday. "What happened is that we, players, just wanted to have us players talk about certain topics. I don't think there is anything unhealthy about that."

Most other players have declined to talk about what was discussed at the meeting, though Kevin Anderson, the player council vice president,

told British media on Monday that the topic of prize money was raised.

No. 4-ranked Alexander Zverev said Djokovic did most of the talking at the meeting, which was attended by all of the top male players at the season's first major.

"I don't really have a position (on the subject) because that was the first time it was mentioned," he said. "Everybody listened to it. That's about it."

According to the Daily Mail newspaper, which first reported the meeting on Monday, Djokovic was said to have asked all non-players to leave the room and then gave a lengthy speech from the stage about forming a players' union, accompanied by an Australian lawyer.

On Tuesday, however, Djokovic denied that any lawyer was present or that he raised other issues related to equal prize money for men and women or the prospect of boycotting future Grand Slams if player demands weren't met.

"I know that you guys are trying to take this forward several steps," said Djokovic, who was returning from six months on the sidelines with a right elbow injury. "Obviously you're talking about

union, you're talking about boycott, you're talking about radical decisions to make ... so we can get financial compensations the way we deserve it. But there was no talks about that."

Total prize money for the Australian Open reached 55 million Australian dollars (\$42 million) this year, a 10 percent increase over 2017. The men's and women's singles champions will both take home AU\$4 million (\$3 million), while first-round losers will make AU\$60,000 (\$45,700).

While players at the top of the sport are making more at the Grand Slams, those ranked below 100 who play primarily on the lower-tier Challenger Tour and don't automatically qualify for the majors still struggle to get by.

Six years ago, when Federer was president of the ATP Player Council, the top male players put pressure on the Grand Slams to dramatically increase prize money—and the tournaments responded. The total purse at the 2013 Australian Open rose significantly, with the biggest jumps going to early-round losers. First-round losers that year earned AU\$27,600, a 32 percent increase from the year before.

While Rangers want to add rotation depth, Yu still unlikely



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Rangers

general manager Jon Daniels anticipates adding depth to his rotation. It remains unlikely that pitcher will be a front-line starter.

"We're not going to close the door on the chance to add premium talent. You always explore it," Daniels said Tuesday. "But if I had to handicap it, I don't think it's highly likely at this point."

Yu Darvish, traded by the Rangers to the NL champion Los Angeles Dodgers last July, is among several starting pitchers still available as free agents. Jake Arrieta, the 2015 NL Cy Young Award winner who went to nearby TCU, is

also among that group.

Daniels has consistently said the Rangers, who missed the playoffs last season after consecutive AL West titles, didn't plan to spend big this offseason.

"We're pretty realistic about where we are and what our goals are, both short- and long-term," Daniels said. "We've said from Day 1 we were not going to kind of go all-in from a standpoint of spending big dollars against this year."

After a report last week that Darvish narrowed his potential teams to the Rangers, New York Yankees, Chicago Cubs, Houston and Minnesota, the pitcher responded on Twitter, "know one more team is in."

Daniels and Darvish had dinner together last month, a previously planned gathering of friends who had worked together for 5+ seasons and not a negotiating session.

Asked if another dinner was planned with Darvish, Daniels responded, "No, not that I'm aware of."

"He did pay last time, though. That was a first," the GM said. "Six years of lunches and stuff, he had never paid before."

When the offseason began, the Rangers had only left-handers Cole Hamels and 13-game winner Martin Perez signed for their 2018 rotation. They fell short in their pursuit of pitcher-outfielder Shohei Ohtani from Japan.

Davis, Pelicans end Celtics' 7-game win streak



BOSTON (AP)—Anthony Davis and the New Orleans Pelicans eventually were too big for the Boston Celtics.

Davis had 45 points and 16 rebounds as he and DeMarcus Cousins controlled the lane and led the Pelicans to a 116-113 overtime victory on Tuesday night, ending the Celtics' seven-game winning streak.

"It was a great win for us. They tested us," said Davis, who just missed matching the 48 points he scored Sunday during a win in New York.

Cousins added 19 points and 15 rebounds, and Jrue Holiday scored 23 points. The trio combined for all 12 Pelicans points in OT as New Orleans handed the Celtics their first loss of 2018.

Ian Clark added 15 points for the Pelicans, whose size inside ended up prevailing in overtime when Boston's barrage of 3-pointers stopped falling.

Kyrie Irving led Boston with 27 points, 24 after half-time as the Celtics rallied from a 12-point deficit and led by as much as five late in regulation.

"For some reason tonight, the whole game we were a little careless. It just carried over there at the end," said Al Horford, who had 14 points and nine rebounds. "We thought we had it. It just got away from us."

Marcus Smart and Jaylen Brown added 16 points apiece for the Celtics, who attempted a season-high 50 3-pointers. Rather than challenge Davis and Cousins inside, the Celtics lived outside and it cost them in overtime when they went just 1 for 4.

"I thought we did a great job defensively in the first half trying to contain Kyrie. You know that that's not going to last the entire game," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "We came up with stops when we absolutely had to and then we were able to make some plays down the stretch that were the difference in the game."

Horford's 3-pointer early in OT gave Boston a 107-106 lead and Boston went up 113-110. A jumper by Cousins



AP
New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) threads between Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) and guard Marcus Smart (36) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018. Davis scored 45 points as the Pelicans defeated the Celtics, 116-113.

fourth quarter, when the Magic scored 35 points after trailing by two through three.

Jimmy Butler had 28 points and seven rebounds for the Timberwolves, who had won five straight games by an average of 18.8 points.

Bismack Biyombo had 16 rebounds for the Magic, leading the team with the NBA's worst rebound percentage to a 51-37 advantage.

Nuggets 105, Maverick 102

In Denver, Nikola Jokic scored 29 points and grabbed a season-high 18 rebounds, Gary Harris hit two late free throws and Denver led by as many as 23 points before holding on for a victory over Dallas.

Harris finished with 25 points and Will Barton added 22 for the Nuggets, who won for just the second time in six games.

The Nuggets led 82-59 with 4:04 left in the third before Dallas staged a massive comeback. The Mavericks cut the deficit to one on a three-point play by Dennis Smith Jr. with 10.4 seconds remaining. After Harris made two free throws, the Mavericks had a chance for a last-second shot, but Dwight Powell couldn't corral a long pass as the buzzer sounded.

Trail Blazers 118, Suns 111

In Portland, Damian Lillard scored 31 points and Portland snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over Phoenix.

CJ McCollum had 27 points, including six 3-pointers, and the Trail Blazers led by as many as 27 points in third quarter.

Devin Booker had 43 for the Suns, who have lost three straight and five of their last six.

cut the lead to 113-112, then Holiday added two more field goals and Boston couldn't catch up from there.

Meanwhile, Basketball Hall of Famer Jo Jo White, a two-time NBA champion with the Celtics and an Olympic gold medalist, has died. He was 71.

The Celtics announced his death Tuesday night. No cause was provided.

The team said it was "ter-

ribly saddened" by White's passing, calling him a "champion and a gentleman; supremely talented and brilliant on the court, and endlessly gracious off of it."

White played 10 seasons for Boston, which drafted him ninth overall from Kansas in 1969. He averaged 17.2 points per game over 13 years, also playing for Golden State and the Kansas City Kings before

retiring in 1981.

The Celtics retired White's No. 10 the following year, and he still was working with the club as a director of special projects at the time of his death.

White averaged 18.1 points as a member of the 1974 Celtics championship team and was chosen MVP of the NBA Finals two years later when Boston won again, scoring 33

while leading the Celtics to a 128-126 win in triple overtime against the Phoenix Suns.

Magic 108, Timberwolves 102

In Orlando, Evan Fournier scored a season-high 32 points to help Orlando break a seven-game losing streak with a victory over Minnesota.

D.J. Augustin added 11 points and three assists in the

NBA opens probe into Rockets-Clippers events

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The NBA has spoken to Clippers star Blake Griffin as well as other players from the Houston Rockets and Los Angeles as part of its investigation into late-game and postgame incidents involving the teams.

Griffin confirmed Tuesday that he had been contacted by league officials.

"I've spoken to them," he said after attending a L.A. Clippers Foundation event at an elementary school. "I'm sure they've talked to every-

body by now. We'll see what they come up with."

Temper boiled over Monday night late in the Clippers' 113-102 victory, to the point where several security guards were needed outside the Houston locker room afterward.

"I wouldn't call it pretty crazy," Griffin said. "In this day and age everything kind of gets blown a little bit out of proportion."

Citing anonymous NBA sources, ESPN reported sev-

eral Rockets players headed toward the Clippers' locker room afterward, seeking a confrontation, but were escorted away by security before anything got physical.

"We were exactly where we were supposed to be. All our guys were in the locker room talking," Griffin said Tuesday. "We were doing the right thing."

There were incidents as well in the closing minutes of Chris Paul's first game against the Clippers at Staples Center

since he was traded to the Rockets last summer. Griffin appeared to bump Houston coach Mike D'Antoni, and they exchanged words. Griffin and Houston's Trevor Ariza were later ejected after another incident.

"I think the NBA should finish their investigation," Clippers owner Steve Ballmer said Tuesday. "I'm glad we got the win last night and I'm glad all our guys were in our locker room all night last night."

SAO PAULO (AP)—Ronaldinho, "the ever-smiling magician" of Barcelona, as described by his former club, has ended his professional career.

Roberto Assis, the brother and agent of the 2005 Ballon d'Or winner, announced Tuesday that the 37-year-old wants to play a series of farewell matches from August -- and then focus on his already busy life off the pitch.

Ronaldinho played his last professional match in 2015 for

Agent says former World Cup winner Ronaldinho has retired

Brazilian club Fluminense.

"Ronnie's professional career is over. He wants to be a football ambassador, do charity, and work with his friends in music from now on," Assis told The Associated Press.

Assis hopes to schedule some farewell matches for Ronaldinho after the World Cup in Russia, which ends July 15. The initial plan is to play games in Brazil, Europe

and Asia and to also get Brazil's national team involved, Assis said.

Last July, Ronaldinho said on the sidelines of a friendly in Chechnya that was he was "too old" to return to action. He repeated that to a Brazilian TV in November, but did not rule out reconsidering.

Ronaldinho's decorated

career also includes one World Cup title (2002), one Champions League victory (2006) and two Spanish league titles with Barcelona, and two FIFA world player of the year awards (2004 and 2005).

He played 101 matches and scored 35 goals for Brazil from 1997 to 2013.

"We pay tribute to this ace

that shone using the yellow shirt," Brazil's football confederation posted on Twitter. "Thanks for all the magic, Ronaldinho."

At the 2002 World Cup, Ronaldinho played second fiddle to midfielder Rivaldo and striker Ronaldo, but he was instrumental in the 2-1 quarterfinal victory over England, with an assist and scoring a remarkable free kick goal from



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Marianas Island Basketball Federation is pushing for the growth of 3x3 basketball in the Commonwealth as it tries to take advantage of the sports increasing popularity in the region.

Vanuatu hosted the 10th edition of the Pacific Mini Games last month where 3x3 basketball made its debut. Samoa won the gold after a 17-7 crushing of the Solomon Islands, while Papua New Guinea settled for the bronze after prevailing against Fiji, 20-15.

Team CNMI—composed



of Dan Barcinas, Preston Basa, Jack Lizama, and Douglas Schmidt—finished at sixth place in the 10-team tournament with a 3-5 record, scoring wins over host Vanuatu (16-8), American Samoa (20-13), and Nauru (17-15). The squad suffered losses against PNG, 18-7; eventual champion Samoa, 21-12; and silver medalist Solomon Islands, 9-2. Team CNMI also had close setbacks against Fiji, 20-16 and the Cook Islands, 16-12.

The Commonwealth's experience in the Mini Games is one reason MIBF development officer Elias Rangamar is counting on Basa to help

eight, but we accommodated one more to keep the season competitive. As much as possible, we want the games to be competitive to also develop younger players," Rogolifoi said. Players 17 years old and above are allowed to compete in the upcoming season.

Rogolifoi added that they may temporarily suspend the matches to give way to the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.

"We're going to try to finish the season but if not, we're going to stop the games for the Micro Games. We're going to select the players who would suit up for the CNMI and they will be needing some time to practice to prepare for the Micro Games," the SBL official said.

In other news, Rogolifoi will be heading to Tinian later this month to conduct a baseball coaches and umpires certification course sanctioned by the Baseball Confederation of Oceania. The course is set from Jan. 29 to Feb. 2.

For more information on the BCO certification courses, call Rogolifoi at 234-6672.

200 world rankings in the ITF Juniors, she received a slot to the qualifying tournament for the 2018 Australian Open (Juniors). Before getting the call, Lee was initially listed on the alternate roster and had second thoughts of going to Australia because she may make it to the qualifier only if some players back out from the competition.

Lee, along with her father Dong Min, eventually left Saipan for the Land Down Under early this month and the former waited for the start of the qualifier, which was scheduled to kick off yesterday. She is among the 26 players (as of Jan. 16) who will vie for the eight qualifying slots in the first Grand Slam event under the ITF Circuit this year.

The Commonwealth player is also one of the only two Pacific Oceania players who will see action in the tournament. The other one is Papua New Guinea's Violet Apisah, who is in the main draw.

MIBF eyes more 3x3 tournaments

him improve the association's 3x3 grassroots program.

"Preston will be the lead person for this since he was the one who earned the [International Basketball Federation] certification," Rangamar said.

The MIBF official added that 3x3 basketball is a good training ground for young

players.

"It's a great development for young kids who are just starting to learn basketball since all the players get to touch the ball in 3x3 games. Aside from learning the basic skills of basketball like dribbling and shooting, kids can also learn how to play

defense and properly give screens so that the one who has the ball or the shooter can have open looks at the basket," he said.

Rangamar believed the CNMI still has a lot of things to do 3x3 basketball if it wants to go toe-to-toe against the top teams in the region.

"It is still a big challenge for us. We should look into ways on how to develop the kids. Height remains an advantage in 3x3 basketball. That's why we need to develop the shooting skills of our players to draw the defense away from the middle. Hopefully, we could improve their outside

Brees: No plans to field offers from other teams



METAIRIE, La. (AP)—Drew Brees dispensed with technicalities regarding his contract and spoke as if his return to New Orleans next season was virtually assured.

"It's the same way I felt two days ago. It's the same way I felt 12 years ago. I'll be here as long as they'll have me," Brees said Tuesday in the locker room at Saints headquarters, where players were packing up for the offseason following their dramatic elimination from the playoffs in Minnesota last weekend.

Brees acknowledged he'd have leverage if he chose to listen to offers from other clubs, but asserted that he has no plans to do so for professional and personal reasons.

The Saints have pieces in place to be a contender in upcoming seasons, having nearly advanced to the NFC title game with a roster featuring numerous first—and second-year regulars.

"Do I feel like this team has what it takes? Yes, I do," Brees said.

Then there are Brees' ever-deepening ties to New Orleans. He was 27 and childless when he arrived. Now he's a father of four who turned 39 on Monday.

"Certainly, the relationship with this city will always play a strong role in me wanting to be here and ... wanting to finish my career here," Brees said.

And there's no guarantee he'll have better synergy with any coach than he's had with



New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) greets Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton after their NFL wild card playoff football game in New Orleans, Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018. The Saints won, 36-21.

Sean Payton.

"We have a great history together," Brees said, recalling how Payton courted him in 2006 while he was still rehabilitating from major throwing-shoulder surgery. "I'm here because he believed in me."

Brees has since passed for 58,097 yards and 408 touchdowns, won a Super Bowl and led New Orleans to six playoff berths. This season, his completion rate of 72 percent set an NFL record.

Payton on Tuesday declined to discuss how the team will address Brees' contract, saying now is "not the time."

But letting Brees go would be costly for New Orleans—financially and on the field.

Brees' contract technically runs through 2018, but voids automatically when the new league year begins on March 14. That was done for two reasons. The Saints received

salary cap flexibility they needed in 2016 by spreading Brees' guaranteed money over two more years. Brees gained leverage because the Saints lose \$18 million in salary cap space in 2018 if they fail to re-sign him.

That's given Brees confidence that an extension is inevitable.

"I don't plan on this being something that goes until March 14th," said Brees, who also spoke about the 2018 Saints as if presuming he'll be their QB.

"We have a great window of opportunity," Brees said. "I've been a part of talented teams in the past, though, that have not lived up to expectations. I've also been a part of teams that were just gutsy and gritty, and surpassed expectations."

"Bottom line—success is dependent upon your willingness to work and the way that

guys care about one another and the sense of urgency," Brees continued. "So while I think we do have a talented team, I know that each year you have to go out and prove it."

Several players said they were still struggling to come to grips with the sudden, stunning end of their season on a 61-yard Vikings touchdown as time expired Sunday.

"I couldn't stop thinking about it if I wanted to," defensive tackle Sheldon Rankins said. "Hopefully it'll be more fuel than anything and I can just go train as hard as I can."

Payton wore a black track suit with Saints emblems on it, as if to symbolize that he is off and running in his effort to build upon the success of 2017.

"We have to look at every area we can improve—every area, not just one specific area," Payton declared. "There's nothing promised. We've got a lot of work to do."

Three significant contributors are entering free agency: safety Kenny Vaccaro, defensive end Alex Okafor and offensive lineman Senio Kelemete.

Meanwhile, 34-year-old right tackle Zach Strief, a Week 1 starter who spent most of the season on injured reserve, said he hasn't decided whether he'll retire. Strief likely would have to accept a pay cut and possibly a backup role if he returns. He's due about \$3.9 million next season and his successor, 2017 first-round draft choice Ryan Ramsey, proved this season he was ready to step in. Strief also is rehabilitating from reconstructive knee surgery.

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tion-sponsored Falcons will be returning to try to get the title this time and will be joined by 2016 champions C.K. Bears, who are supported by Rep. J.P. Sablan (R-Saipan). Doru Camacho and Henry Lizama will manage the Falcons and Bears, respectively. The D9ers (Saipan Stevedores), Blue Jays (Tan Siu Lin Foundation), Go See Mark (Mark Sablan), Titanium (Senate President Arnold I. Palacios), Outlaws (Manny Salas), and Mariners (Shine Tenorio) are the other competing teams.

John Tenorio, Froilan Camacho, A.J. Murig, Bernard Cabrera, Ed Cepeda, and Shine Tenorio are the managers of the other squads.

SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifoi said they limited the number of teams to nine to avoid conflicts with the schedule.

"We have all the waiver forms and ground rules in place for this season. So, we're calling all the teams to get organized. The ideal number is

CAROL

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bles) 213.75 points—180 in singles and 135 in doubles. Besides the tournament in South Korea, Lee also gained points for inclusion in the rankings from the Oceania Close Junior Championships (40) in Fiji, South Pacific Open Junior Championships (30) in Fiji, New Caledonia ITF Juniors (30) in Noumea, Open BNP Paribas Junior Nouvelle-Calédonie (30), also in New Caledonia, and the Méditerranée Avenir (20) in Morocco.

In doubles, Lee collected 30 points from the RUC Tennis Junior Open in Morocco, 25 in the Oceania Close Junior Championships, and 20 each in the PTT-ITF Junior Grade 2 in Thailand, South Pacific Open Junior Championships, 1st ITF Perlis Junior Championship 2017 in Malaysia, and New Caledonia ITF Juniors.

With Lee gracing the Top

MORALES

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game officials and other players from both teams stepped in to prevent further altercation. However, just when everybody thought the heated situation had cooled down, Kintaro picked up the ball and threw it toward Tenorio. Fortunately, Tenorio walked away and was escorted by his teammates to their bench, while 670 Sonics XVIII players also pacified Kintaro, who was eventually ejected from the game.

Morales knocked the technical free throw from Kintaro's infraction, upping the

lead of Sun Palace to 63-53. Sun Palace then completed its long-game domination by making two and-1 plays with the last one coming from Morales.

The former Hopwood Middle School student, who is based in Louisiana and is just on vacation here, scored 17 points in the first half to give Sun Palace a 32-18 lead. He was still unstoppable in the second half and had his longest scoring run in that period, drilling Sun Palace's first 15 points to pad their lead.

With the victory, Sun Palace now has a 5-1 record and moved up to second place in

the team standings behind M&M Salas Ol'Aces (6-0), while the 670 Sonics XVIII dropped to third with its 4-2 mark.

Meanwhile, the 670 Sonics XVII and Kanoa Resort won the two boys division games last Saturday.

The 670 Sonics XVII outclassed Saipan Vegas Extreme, 65-53. The 670 Sonics XVII gained only its second triumph in six games and is likely to miss the semifinals, while Saipan Vegas Extreme is winless in six matches.

Darren Ejercito top-scored for the 670 Sonics XVII with his 17 points, while Raven

Francisco added 10.

Kanoa Resort improved its record to 4-2 following a 59-51 win over Saipan Vegas Elite (1-5).

Warren Ellama led Kanoa Resort's victory with his 15 points.

Sun Palace 69 — Morales 47, Factor 10, Hahn 3, Tenorio 2, Podziewski 2, Kim 2, Galarion 2.

670 Sonics XVIII 53 — Itaas 12, De Guzman 11, Tengco 8, Rafols 8, Manan-sala 4, Cobacha 3, Diaz 2, Ordona 2, Kapileo 1.

Scoring by halves: 32-18, 69-53.

2017 Saipan Baseball League Masters Division

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



The IPI Masters huddle to celebrate their win against the Papa Bears in the battle for third place in the Masters division of the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last week at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

Mark Toves, left, and Boleros teammate Mario Aguon earn the doubles champion awards.



The Boleros players pose with their pennant trophy after sweeping the elimination round.



James Fleming of the Boleros, center, poses with SBL board members Ben Jones, left, and Bernard Cabrera after receiving the most runs award.



GSM Masters players greet closer Pete Sablan, center, after getting the final out in their finals match against pennant champions Boleros last Monday night.



GSM Masters' Mark Flores, left, receives his batting champion trophy from SBL board member Bernard Cabrera.



The Boleros' Justin Reyes shows his trophy and medal after being named as one of the home run champions, tying Saisei's Hector Efraim and Joe Torres of the IPI Masters.



The Papa Bears' Glen Camacho, second left, and Mike Guerrero, third left, and the Boleros' James Fleming, right, pose with their triples champion trophies.



Federer breezes through first round match

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Davis, Pelicans end Celtics' 7-game win streak

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Carol breaks into Top 200

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Good news greeted the CNMI's Carol Lee at the start of 2018 as she barged into the Top 200 in the ITF Juniors world rankings.

Lee, during the Jan. 1 rankings released by International Tennis Federation (Juniors), jumped from No. 213 to No. 178—her highest since joining the ITF Juniors Circuit two years ago—and kept the same grade as of Jan. 15. She made it to the Top 200 after ITF Juniors included the points she got from the 2017 Seogwipo Asia/Oceania Closed Junior Championships to her total for 2017.

The 16-year-old earned 30 points from the Grade B1 tournament held in South Korea from Nov. 6 to 12 after winning her first two games in the singles event. Lee pulled off 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 win over South Korea's Ji Youn Lee in the first round and then stunned China's Jiaqi Wang in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3, to move into the Round of 16. After the back-to-back victories, the CNMI



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
World No. 178 Carol Lee trains at the Kanoa Resort tennis courts with brother Sean in preparation for a tournament in Australia.

Cubs vs Falcons in U25 title match

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Cubs and Falcons will close out the 2017 Saipan Baseball League tomorrow, while the new season is just around the corner as SBL eyes

a Feb. 5 opening at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

The Cubs earned the right to face the Falcons in the finals after completing a 12-2 demolition of the Blue Jays in their semifinal



game last Tuesday night. The Falcons moved into the title game first after downing the Pirates, 9-3. The division finals is set for tomorrow at 6:30pm.

Meanwhile, eight teams

will try to stop the Aces' title defense bid when SBL kicks off its 2018 season tentatively on Feb. 5

The Aces, backed by Best Sunshine Inc., won last year's crown after a 2-1 decision over the Falcons in Game 4 of the best-of-five championship series. They won Games 1 (9-3) and 3 (13-9), while the Falcons clinched Game 2, 12-8.

Player/coach Luis Iguel is expected to field the same roster for the defending champions that also have his brothers Lamar, Juan, Jesus, and Mike. Ben Jones, Manny Cabrera, Barry Sunumai, Angel Falig, John Tudela, Peter Tenorio, Nokki Saralu, and Dave Camacho were the other members of last year's winning squad.

The Natibu Sports Associa-

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Morales lifts Sun Palace past 670 Sonics XVIII

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Christian Morales toyed around with the defense of the 670 Sonics XVIII to lead Sun Palace to a 69-53 victory in the heated first game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Morales exploded for 47 points, making all kinds of shots and hitting them in streaks to hand Sun Palace the victory in the match marred by a lot of shoving and taunt-

ing from both camps. The last of those uncalled for reactions came in the final 34 seconds of the game and involved the 670 Sonics XVIII's Jester Kintaro and Sun Palace's Sun-joon Tenorio.

Tenorio gave up a hard foul on Kintaro, as the former chased down a shot from the latter underneath the basket. The 670 Sonics XVIII center fell hard on the floor and when he got up, he and Tenorio were engaged in a stare down. Kintaro then pushed Tenorio before

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sun Palace's Christian Morales, center, drives against two 670 Sonics XVIII defenders during the second half of their game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



JON PEREZ

Participants from Rota take the written test for the coaches and umpires certification course sanctioned by Baseball Confederation of Oceania and held last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium's conference room.